THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

THE INDEPENDENT

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE LUXURY HOTEL OFFER TWO NIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

'Once you kill people because you don't like what they say, you change the rules of war'



the wreckage was a dead man, in his fifties perhaps, although a benevolent grey dust had covered his face. Not far away, also upside-down - his legs trapped between tons of concrete and steel - was a younger man in a pullover, face grey, blood dribbling from his head on

to the rubble beneath. Deep inside the tangle of cement and plastic and iron, in what had once been the makeup room next to the broadcasting studio of Serb Television, was all that was left of a young woman, burnt alive when Nato's missile exploded in the radio control room. Within six hours, the Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short declared the place a

"legitimate target". It wasn't an argument worth debating with the wounded one of them a young technician who could only be extracted from the hundreds of tons of



ROBERT FISK IN BELGRADE

concrete in which he was encased by amputating both his legs. Nor with the silent hundreds who gathered in front of the still-smoking ruin at dawn yesterday, lost for words as they stood in the little glade of trees beside St Marko's Cathedral, where Belgrade's red and cream trams turn round. A Belgrade fireman pulled at one of the bodies for all of 30 seconds before he realised that the man, swinging back and forth amid the wreckage, was dead. By dusk last night, 10

women - had been tugged from beneath the concrete, another man had died in hospital and 15 other technicians and secretaries still lay buried. A fireman reported hearing a voice from the depths as the heavens opened, turning into mud the muck and dust of a building that Ms Short had declared to be a

"propaganda machine". We had all wondered how long it would be before Nato decided that Radio Televizja Srbije should join the list of "military" targets. Spokesmen had long objected to its crude propaganda - it included a Nato symbol turning into a swastika and a montage of Madeleine Albright growing Dracula teeth in

front of a burning building. It never reported on the tens of thousands of Albanian refugees who spoke of executions and "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. It endlessly repeated films that depicted Yugoslav soldiers as idealised heroes de-

soporific tapes of President Slobodan Milosevic meeting natriarchs, cossacks, Russian envoys and the Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova. The channel was showing an American interview with Mr Milosevic when the first cruise missile smashed into the station's control room just after two o'clock yesterday morning.

But did this justify killing the night staff in their studios and taping rooms? Two weeks ago, Nato's spokesmen had been suggesting that RTS would have to carry six hours of Western television a day if it was to survive - CNN's bland, safe coverage of events presumably offering some balance to the rubbish churned out on the RTS news. But once Nato decided this was as preposterous as it was impracticable, its spokesman announced that the station was not on the list of Nato targets. Then, on Monday.

boys in Belgrade that they a thunderous explosion and a should pull out of the RTS offices. Against the wishes of other Nato nations, so the word went, General Wesley Clark transmitters and people into a had decided to bomb Serb television. CNN withdrew from the building in Takovska Street. And that night, we were all invited to have coffee and orange juice in the studios.

The building was likely to be a target of the "Nato aggressor", according to Goran Matic, a Yugoslav federal minister, as he walked us through the ground floor of the doomed building. Yet, oddly, we did not take him seriously. Even when the air raid siren sounded, I stayed for another coffee.

Surely Nato wouldn't waste its bombs on this tiresome station with its third-rate propaganda and old movies, let alone kill its staff.

Yesterday morning, the moment I heard the cruise missile mile-high cloud of dust as four storeys collapsed to the ground, sandwiching offices, machines, pile of rubble only 15 feet high.

Yet, within six hours, Serb television was back on the air, beaming its programmes from secret transmitters, the female anchorwoman reading the news from pieces of pink paper between pre-recorded films of Serbian folk-songs and ancient Orthodox churches. All along, the Serbs had been ready for just such an attack. We had not believed Nato capable of such ferocity. The Serbs had.

The crowds still stood in the park as darkness fell, watching the men with drills punching their way through the concrete for more survivors. By that time, explanations were flowing from Nato's birthday celebrations in Washington. Serbia's "propaganda machine" had CNN's bosses called up from scream over my hotel roof, I been prolonging the war. I won-

television spreading hatred abeen a mistake? plenty when it was ethnically Yes, Serbian television could cleansing 170,000 Serbs from be hateful, biased, bad. It was Croatia in 1995. But we didn't

bomb Zagreb. And when Pres-

ident Franjo Tudjman's lads

were massacring Serbs and

Muslims alike in Bosnia, we

didn't bomb his residence. Was

Serbian television's real sin its

broadcast of film of the Nato

massacre of Kosovo Albanian

refugees last week, killings that

owned by the government. But once you kill people because you don't like what they say, you have changed the rules of war. And that's what Nato did in Belgrade in the early hours of yesterday morning.

RATES APPLY 24 Hrs

Full reports, pages 2-4 Leading article. Review page 3

Car gunmen fire on bus queue

FIVE PEOPLE were shot by a BY IAN BURRELL man firing indiscriminately at bystanders during a 30-mile car chase yesterday. Victims included a 75-year-old man at a bus-stop, who was hit by the gunman firing an AK-47 as he hung out of the window of a hijacked car being pursued across Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

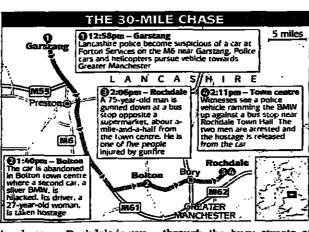
The female owner had been taken hostage but escaped when police rammed the car. Two men were arrested and a third was cornered in a house in Greater Manchester.

The incident, three days after the murder of 13 people by two teenagers at a school in Denver in the US, will reopen the debate about the availability of firearms in Britain.

Home Affairs Correspondent

Yesterday's incident began at 1.20pm, when a car at Garstang service station on the M6 near Lancaster failed to stop for a police patrol vehicle, prompting a chase. Outside Manchester the gang abandoned their car and seized a BMW at gunpoint, under the surveillance of a police helicopter. There were reports of shots. Three police Range Rovers pursued the car towards Rochdale.

Witnesses said a man was hanging out of the window, peppering passers by with bullets. ing, because Rochdale is usupering passers by with bullets. The guy was leaning out of the passenger side (of the car)



through the busy streets at ally quite a quiet little place; about 90mph. Police rammed it nothing really happens," said into a bus-stop in Rochdale Martin Rhodes, 39. Shoppers town centre at 2.11pm. Offishooting at people. It's shock- said the car was speeding cers recovered an AK-47 assault

rifle and a pistol. A police juries to his arm and was unspokesman for said: "A number dergoing surgery. Two other of police officers and members men, aged 46 and 75, had gunof the public had firearms point- shot wounds to the legs. ed at them and shots were fired. Six members of the public have been injured.

Rochdale town centre has been cordoned off ... Two men are being interviewed in connection with the incident." Outside Rochdale Infirmary

a woman, who asked not to be identified, said: "My husband has been shot in the shoulder as far as I know. I'm very worried about him." Robert Clegg. chief executive of Rochdale Health Care NHS Trust, confirmed three men had been admitted with gunshot injuries. A 51-year-old man had in-

He added: "None of the gun-

shot injuries were life-threatening and the relatives who had "No police were injured. been informed were at the bedsides. Two other gunshot victims were being treated in Bury and Oldham.

The spokesman said a 72year-old woman, who escaped being shot despite being at a bus-stop which was sprayed with bullets, had been brought in with chest pains after witnessing the shootings.

A 27-year-old woman, believed to be the woman taken hostage, had been brought in with severe shock.

Bystanders' terror, page 5

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Child's killer gets life Bus driver convicted of eight-year-old's murder

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Euro weakness fears The US thinks growth in the euro area is too slow and is urging EU action Business P17

30,000 Man Utd fans will be able to go to the final Sport P28

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being done. The propaganda

machine is prolonging the war

"[Milosevic] has to be prepared to take his troops out... stop the killing and allow a significant... Nato-led force in"

Ken Bacon, US DefenseDepartment spokesman

"The situation in the [Pristina] hospital is tragic. They are using thread from blankets for stitches"

Nikipas Kanakis, Greek branch Doctors of the World

"We're bombing and bombing and it's not doing anything, so people are saying we need to move toward ground troops" Brent Scowcroft, former US national security adviser

Nato sets out terms to end war

SUMMIT

BY COLIN BROWN AND MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

NATO LEADERS offered last was seen by President Clinton night to end the air strikes on and Tony Blair as an attempt to Yugoslavia if President Slobo-split Nato. The Russian overture dan Milosevic accepts their five did not meet two key demands conditions for peace and begins withdrawing his troops from Kosovo. Such an acceptance would amount to a surrender by Milosevic which few see as likely at this stage of the conflict.

"It's very, very important people

realise that these TV stations

are part of the apparatus and

power of Milosevic... It is the

apparatus keeping him in power"

Tony Blair, Prime Minister

We are willing to end the military campaign when we are clear that those objectives are actually being accepted in good faith and are being acted upon." Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said at the Nato summit in Washington.

However, Nato also signalled a shift in position saying that it would be seeking United Nations endorsement for any settlement in Kosovo. Significantly a three-page statement issued last night did not mention the possibility of a ground invasion by Nato troops, a subject on which alliance leaders are divided. Instead it referred to an "international force" which would have Nato at its core, but would include forces friendly to

The leaders also called for "an embargo on petroleum products" still flowing into Yu-goslavia. The United States has proposed boarding and searching ships in the Adriatic suspected of supplying oil to

A separate peace initiative by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian envoy, was rejected last night by Nato leaders who made a commitment to intensify the bombing to force Slobodan Milosevic to meet all their demands for a settlement

The Russian move, which

"Such criminals as Clinton and

Blair could not have been born

by any mother. By comparison,

even Hitler was but a little child

Serbian Information Minister

Aleksandar Vucic,

- the removal of Milosevic's forces from Kosovo and the emplacement of an armed international peacekeeping force, Nato leaders said.

Mr Chernomyrdin had threatened to gatecrash the Nato summit, disrupting the Anglo-US show of unity to continue the bombing until Milosevic relented. The initiative would have

ruled out Nato forces by insisting that no troops from "aggressor nations" would be allowed into Kosovo, Although for the first time, Milosevic conceded that they should be armed. He also offered to reduce rather than withdraw all his forces from Kosovo.

Even so, the Nato leaders sought to avoid the impression of a humiliating snub to the Russian envoy. "We do appreciate what the Russians are trying to do but Mr Chernomyrdin has said that what he is getting from Belgrade doesn't go nearly far enough. It might be better if he worked on them. There is a very busy agenda here," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman, Alastair Camp-

Nato leaders side-stepped the issue of deploying ground troops which threatened to split the alliance by uniting instead behind a broad declaration by Javier Solana, the Nato secretary-general, that the military campaign so far ruling out ground forces should be updated and reviewed.

However there were continuing signs of tensions at the Mr Chernomyrdin wanted to dis- summit, with US sources equiv-



Tony Blair and President Bill Clinton at the opening of the Nato 50th anniversary summit in Washington yesterday

ground troops while Mr Blair, who continued to take a more hawkish stand, warned that Milosevic should not have a veto over the deployment of ground troops. This in turn has has unsettled Italy and Greece.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, was described

a meeting between the leaders as "absolutely rock solid" behind plans to intensify the Nato campaign this weekend in an effort to break Milosevic resistance. Mr Schröder confirmed he wanted a "robust" international force in Kosovo.

Mr Chernomyrdin's gate-

British camp, triggering suspicions that it was arranged in tandem with Serbia. "Everyone is used to the games Milosevic is playing and we are tired of them," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman. "Don't just dance every time Milosevic makes a move." he told re-

Nato leaders spent three hours debating the Kosovo action before endorsing the joint declaration backing the Solana plan. It is likely there will be more air

strikes on Serbian broadcasting centres which Nato leaders insisted were legitimate military targets because they were part of Mr Milosevic's propaganda machine.

Win McNamee/Reuters

"We are not going to stop the prosecution of the campaign this weekend it will be intensified. We have got to hit Milosevic hard. I don't mean there is an attempt to knock him out personally but we want to take out the apparatus of dictatorship," Mr Blair's spokesman said.

BRIEFING:

Mato said its aircraft had destroyed a Yugoslav artillery battery in Kosovo, as well as a troop convoy, six tanks and a brigade command post during attacks over the previous 24 hours. Cruise missiles, launched from ships in the Adriatic, also struck electricity transformers in the Belgrade area. ■ United Nations agencies have asked national governments for \$625m (£390m) to fund relief operations for the refugees. The amount is based on the needs of 950,000 refugees until June. Finland says it will take about 1,000 refugees from camps in Macedonia over the next few weeks. starting with 164 arrivals next Monday. Switzerland is to take 2,500 refugees after a request from the UN High Commission for Refugees. Priority will be given to people who already have relatives in the country.

Germany says it may take in more refugees. despite having already flown 10,000 people from makeshift camps. During the past 24 hours, 28 aid flights have arrived in Albania. delivering 11 tons of food and water, 19 flights have arrived in Macedonia, with 93 tons of food and water and five tons of medical supplies. The UNHCR is predicting an influx of refugees into Albania.

More than 212,000 people are expected.

Birthday party becomes an uncertain council of war

today, Europe is confronting a since the anniversary on 4 tinent of Europe, and on keephundreds of thousands of deported people, burnt homes and destroyed villages recall images we hoped never to see again."

These were the words of Javier Solana, the Nato secretary-general, opening the inaugural session yesterday of what had been planned as a cel-

30

غادِ

"AS WE meet in Washington half-century. In the three weeks troops in any conflict on the conpurpose of the gathering have been transformed.

The favourite cliché in Washington was that a birthday party had become a council of war. For the pessimistic, the party had become a wake for an alliance whose time and credibility were exhausted.

Nato, which had prided itself ebration of the alliance's first on never having engaged its

deterrent force, of military strength, is marking its 50th anniversary at war. A generation of leaders, many of whom cut their political teeth in the antiwar movements of the Sixties, have ordered troops into the first serious armed conflict in Europe since the Second World War. And Britain, with Tony

Blair speaking repeatedly of a

ANNIVERSARY

"just war", is once again in the vanguard, at least of the rhetoric.

When Mr Blair and the other 18 allied leaders assembled at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, the mood was sombre. General Hugh Shelton and General Wesley Clark, the

BRITAIN TODAY

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, were due to open the gathering by giving allied leaders a briefing on the state of the conflict in Kosovo. The ensuing discussion was to consider urgent practicalities, such as: could the alliance remain united

if military action were intensi-

fied. "We have done everything

LIGHTING UP

8,45pm 8,21pm 8,21pm 8,41pm 8,12pm 8,25pm 8,25pm

HIGH TIDES

AIR QUALITY

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 05 47 Sun sets: 20.12

NO₂ Moderate Good Good Good Good Good Good

AM HT

5.45am

we could to resolve this matter lic, Hungary and Poland. There grade. Then the march-past dent Bill Clinton

This uncertain council of war is not what Washington had planned to mark what US officials had been calling for months "the most successful military alliance in history". There was to have been be a flypast and a march-past incorporating the three new alliance

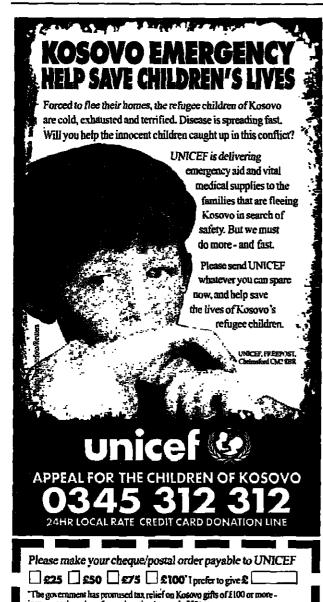
and another for all 44 members of the alliance and its post cold war affiliate, the Partnership for Peace. Russia was to have been

an honoured guest. In the past three weeks, almost every element was rethought or scrapped. First to go was the fly-past, judged inappropriate at a time when

peacefully but when we fight, we was to have been a White was dropped. Last night's ala "small dinner".

Yesterday morning, the thoroughfares of ceremonial Washington were almost deserted: a security cordon in seration for almost a mile around kept all but delegates

and journalists away. Until Sunday, this is a secure area in a capital which Nato planes were bombing Bel- is talking war.



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Please post this coupon, with your gift to: Appeal for the Children of Kosovo,

UNICEF, Room IND4, FREEPOST, Cheimsford CM2 8BR, THANK YOU.

Noon today and direction FORECAST

General situation: Central and eastern parts of England will start dull with out-breaks of rain. Much of the east will remain cloudy and damp all day but the Mud-lands will jon Wales and the West Country with a mix of surint spells and only isolated showers by this afternoon. Northern Ireland will start largely dry but showers will break out. Eastern Scotland will have some rain and it will be cool on Coasts Facing the south-east breeze. Elsewhere in Scotland there will be suriny spells and only the odd shower.

London, SE & E Angla: A dull start with some rain around this morning, but it will gradually become drier and a little brighter. A light and variable wind, Max comp 12-15C (54-59F).

Channel Is, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, late of Man: Some sunshine and only isolated showers, although cloud will build in the far southwest this afternoon. A light south-westerly wind. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Islast Generally cloudy with rain at times. Drier and brighter inland later. A light south-easterly wind. Mar temp 11-14C (52-57F): cooler on coast.

NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Sunny spells and only isolate chiefly on the hills. A light southerly wind. Max temp 11-14C (\$2-57F) N Ireland: Mostly dry at first but sunny spells becoming more limited as showen develop; easing again later. A light south-west wind. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

OUTLOOK

The east of Scotland and England will be mostly cloudy tomorrow but other areas should start dry and bright before rain spreads in from the south-wes later. Monday will be mainly dry, the best of any sunny breaks in the west.

TRA
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout,
Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new
M11 Init road. Until 31st December.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Mejor Roadworks on
Avenmouth Bridge, Until 23rd June 2001.
Warwickehire: M42 Between J10 Termworth
services and J9 Sytten Codifield. Roadworks
and centraflow. Until 23rd April.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley
Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway is reduced
to two leanes southbound. Until 21st
November 2000. nbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Co. Antrina: A1 Kingsway, Dunmurray. Roadworks. various lane restrictions. Until Derroysmen: Ab Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shardlow Road round-about. East of Alvaston. Contrafflow for work on new ASD. Urmi 15th October. AA Roadwarch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (Inc VAT).

followed by the two digits for your area Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT) and Frome in Dorset.

YESTERDAY EXTREMES oldest (day): L. Glascarnoch 6C (43F) Bristol 17.0 mm

members - the Czech Repub-

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WEATHERLINE

For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

6.8 24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Thursday

Rain or SHINE...

FLOOD ALERTS were issued yesterday for stretches of 12 rivers after heavy rain. There were amber alerts - of flooding to isolated properties and roads - on the rivers Coly and Upper Axe in Devon, and the Isle in Somerset. There were lower yellow alerts on the Sid. Otter, Yarty, Umborne Brook, Lower Otter, Clyst and Lower Axe in Devon, and the Bride



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY cold front

Low V will slowly move eastwards. High J will before expanding and drifting northwards. THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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I watched as 'TV Slobbo' turned into voice of hate

PROPAGANDA BY MARCUS TANNER

TO MANY SERBS, especially in the deep countryside, it is the voice of absolute truth and the means by which "Slobo" communicates his struggle against fascism and the New World Order to his embattled but adoring compatriots. To a small, probably shrinking miority, it is the Bastille - a tress imprisoning the mind

of Serbia from the world. When I first worked in Serbian TV's English-language section in 1988, the Milosevic revolution was a work in progress. Radio Televisija Serbiia had scarcely got into its stride. True, the Kosovo Albanians were already called "nationalists and separatists", and even "counter-revolutionaries", but the gloves were still on.

Within two years, the vocabulary of socialism had slipped away to reveal the sav- urgent need for cadre differage racial hatred which for at least eight years has been RTS's stock in trade.

Since then RTS has turned into a vehicle that whips up monster on its own. The man genocidal passions, a vital cog in the business of psychologically preparing the entire Serbian nation for the necessity of exterminating its enemies. The paramilitaries now killing Albanian civilians in Kosovo were reared on a diet of ethnic hatred that poured out of the station. In that sense it is a crucial we pon in Milosevic's war against the Kosovars.

No one who ever sat through those 7.30pm vesti (news) pro- Berlin Wall was coming down grammes would forget the and Communist parties were hate-filled propaganda that collapsing in the face of demospilt out over the airwaves cratic challenges everywhere every night for up to an hour from the Baltic to Macedonia, and a half. Nor could they for- in Serbia alone it survived, get the breathless, babbling transformed beyond recognitone of the presenters, the glee tion by nationalism. with which they referred to the "liquidation of enemy units"; nor could they forget the nists in 1987, displacing his presenters' reliance on the limited lexicon of state Serbian nationalism, whose terms dictated sult of his prior takeover of RTS,

tashe Fascist", every Bosnian a 'mujahadeen", every Albanian a "Shiptar" - a word which has the same connotations when used by outsiders as "nigger" does to black people.

The world has RTS to thank for adding a new phrase to the English language - "ethnic cleansing" - although the phrase has been corrupted; what the RTS broadcasts used to say was that the Yugoslav army was "cleansing the terrain".

Until the mid-1980s, Radio Televisija Beograd (as it was then) was a dozy Communist news network, whose widely ignored broadcasts were loaded with the impenetrable language of "self-managing socialism". Differences between the Yugoslav republics were concealed in a fog of socialist rhetoric (usually about "the entiation") so that only ideological experts could tell what they were about.

RTS did not mutate into a who transformed it was Slobodan Milosevic. More far-sighted than any other Communist leader in Eastern Europe, Milosevic realised the massive popular power that could be harnessed to Serbia's faltering Communist system by playing on deep-seated racial fears. And Milosevic alone understood the role that television

could play.So it was that while the

Serbian League of Commumoderate former ally and patron Ivan Stambolic, was the rethat every Croat was an "Us- and the success with which he

installed his allies into the institution. It was their strident anti-Albanian propaganda in the summer and autumn of 1987 that rallied Serbs behind Milosevic, toppled Stambolic, and set Serbia on its present

But it was during the wars with Croatia and Bosnia from 1991 to 1995 that RTS really came into its own. The commentaries after the 7.30 evening news became longer and increasingly intimidating.

not only towards "fascist" Croatia and "fundamentalist" Bosnia but towards Milosevic's domestic opponents. It also started labelling political opponents as traitors, virtually inviting their assassination.

Serbia's opposition parties always recognised RTS was their real foe, more important even than the army. It was Vuk Draskovic - now Milosevic's deputy prime minister but in 1991 his bitter opponent – who labelled the heavily-guarded fortress in Belgrade the "Bastille" and who struggled. without success, to force Milosevic to relinquish his grip on this mighty institution.

Milosevic resisted. He would happily distribute ministerial portfolios to several one-time enemies but RTS remains sacrosanct.

In the last few years, challengers emerged. Using the privatisation process - an unwelcome but inevitable process for a government a bankrupt as Milosevic's - a handful of private television and radio stations such as Studio B emerged to provide an alternative world view to RTS's diet of anti-Serbian "plots". But they were grade, leaving the vast bulk of Serbia to RTS.

Serbia's worsening confrontation with the West over the last year saw that threat ex-



Milosevic's takeover of the the authorities limited their such as the assassination of the range to the vicinity of Bel- newspaper editor Slavko Cudependent media. Once again - unless Nato succeeds completely in taking RTS off the air

Britain 'should take in refugees'

HAVENS By Andrew Grice

PADDY ASHDOWN told Tony Blair yesterday that Britain should urgently admit thousands of Kosovar refugees to head off another humanitarian crisis in the camps across the

borders from their homeland. On his return from a five-day trip to the Balkans, where he acted as an unofficial envoy for the Prime Minister, the Liberal Democrat leader accused British ministers of double standards over the refugees.

Referring to Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, he said: "It doesn't do much good for a British minister to roll up to the Macedonian government and give them a lecture on treating refugees when we in this country are taking 120 and Germany has taken 10,000."

The first Kosovar refugees being taken in by Britain are to arrive in Bradford tomorrow, where they will be housed at a disused mental hospital. But Mr Ashdown warned that Britain's very laggardly" effort on refugees was not helping the pro-Western Macedonian government. "They are getting a bit tired of warm words; they want some action" Mr Ashdown said.

The situation in Macedonia was "very fragile" and Nato troops were being stoned by pro-Milosevic locals.

"One of the biggest factors in this war is becoming the instability in Macedonia ... For Milosevic, refugees are an instrument of war. We have to be prepared to win on the refugee battleground just as we have to be prepared to win on every other one".

Mr Ashdown said Nato had very nearly lost the battle 10 days ago, when only Mr Milo-sevic's decision to close the border with Albania had prevented "the terrifying sight of refugees dying in Nato's hands."

Jack Straw, the Home Sec retary, insisted yesterday that the Government remained ready to admit "some thousands" of refugees.

Belgrade offer was only for unarmed observers

HALF OBSCURED by the real war of bombs and missiles, and equally fierce fighting on the propaganda front, the first proposals have emerged for a Kosovo peace. For the moment, the deadlock between Nato and Belgrade remains complete; the statements thus far are not so much peace feelers as devices to stake out the ground. But if serious bargaining does start, the diplomats will have something, however meagre, to work with.

Yesterday, and to no one's surprise, the US and Britain gave short shrift to the latest gambit by Slobodan Milosevic, who for the first time since the conflict began a month ago, fered his assent to some form of international peace-keeping force in the province.

The details relayed to the outside world by the Russian envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin, after a day of talks with the Yugoslav President, are fuzzy: Mr Milosevic apparently would be ready to accept an "international presence" in Kosovo. Obviously it would contain Russians, but who else? Per-

PEACE PROPOSALS

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

hans Greeks and Italians from Nato, but not those countries which have been carrying out the bombing.

What is more. Belgrade insists the presence should take the form of unarmed observers, rather than the heavily armed force that Nato (and even the Russians) believe is essential. Finally, both Serbs and Russians insist that nothing can happen until Nato unilaterally halts its air campaign.

For the allies, these terms are obviously a non-starter. Quite apart from its understandable reluctance to accept any Milosevic promise, Nato is adamant that while the peacekeeping force might contain troops from non-member countries, it must be Nato-led. with none of the infamous "dual key" arrangements with the United Nations, which bedevilled efforts to keep the peace

in Bosnia before 1995. The reaction of Tony Blair was icy. Nato's demands "are

clear and they have to be met". he proclaimed, as an allied air strike devastated the headquarters of Serbian state tele-Mr Chernomyrdin. who

Milosevic, must have expected as much. For one thing, the timing of the proposal is at least as important as its content - a hint of a shift in Belgrade's stance. designed to sow doubt at the Washington summit, exposing latent divisions between Britain, Nato's most hawkish member, and the US on the one hand, and the more cautious Europeans on the other. Unsurprisingly, British officials let it be known that Mr Chernomyrdin should drop any plans he might have had to to turn up in Washington, and strain Nato unity in person.

spent most of Thursday with Mr

But on the sidelines of the summit, Nato's nearest equivalent to a peace package - the German initiative unveiled a fortnight ago - will be under in-

tensive discussion. Bonn's ideas were initially (and unfairly) described in some quarters as a sell-out. In fact, as its authors insist, the initiative is less a free-standing plan than a "road map" towards securing Nato's five demands, endorsed by Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general.

These are: a halt to military activities; the withdrawal of all Yugoslav security and paramilitary forces from Kosovo; the stationing of a peace force; the return of the refugees; and a political settlement on the basis of" the Rambouillet agreement which Belgrade refused to sign.

What is more, the "road map" says the 24-hour halt in the bombing would only start after Serb forces began to withdraw. At the first sign Mr Milosevic was reneging on his undertakings, they would restart. For now, equally unsurprisingly, the Yugoslav President will have none of it.

The moment is not yet ripe for a major peace push, but if and when that moment comes, the present shadow boxing will

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to send in contributions to The Independent's appeal to help aid agencies warned about the still-worsening conditions. The total raised by The Independent's appeal is now more than £625,000 but more is needed. "Donations are still coming in but at a slower rate now than

READERS SHOULD continue for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). The committee is co-ordinating a series the refugees of Kosovo after of appeals for the refugees of Albania Donations from read-Kosovo, including that of The Independent.

The most serious difficulties being faced at the moment are the conditions for local communities in Albania. Macedonia and Montenegro who before," warns a spokesman are hosting Kosovar refugees.

ers are also being used to buy food, blankets, hygiene kits, cooking equipment, sanitation and essential water purification equipment. Medical equipment and antibiotics are being supplied in the south and north-west of Albania.

Appeal money is being used to

pay for 120,000 baby kits for

refugees living with families in

REFUGEE CAMPS By STEVE BOGGAN in Kukes, Albania

AT FIRST the damaged children have been more severely trau- an injury sustained to his foot of Kosovo drew pictures of matised. When they first come when a grenade was thrown at fairy-tale houses surrounded by here, many are withdrawn or his family during an incident of picture-book flowers, images that surprised the 2id workers the other children, and display Three others were killed. who had been brought in to help signs of trauma", says Penelope them. "We asked if this was Lewis, of Unicef. "We play some their home, and a surprising simple games with them and for number said 'No, this is the many the act of just playing and house we will go back to'," said one of them.

are others who need more." But, after a few days, the images began to change. Lulzim, year-old girl who was found aged 10, drew tanks bearing abandoned near a mosque on down on a group of houses be- the edge of town. All attempts neath a sun with a sad face. On to find her mother, one of the one side of the road was a refugees, have so far failed. She mangled body in a violently scribbled pool of blood. The let-refugee - the only other person ters UCK, for Kosovo Libera- she would let near her-and she tion Army, were written near the body.

accuracy that it astonishes all she even smiles. those who look at it. He is aged

spewing from a tank. She is 10.

They are among 500 children who have passed through a traumatised by the noise of passed after running the gaunt-

let of Serbian ethnic cleansing.

lo ol

laughing again helps. But there

Among them was the twowas taken in by another would say only the words mother tractor" and "UCK". Ibrahim's picture was of a After two weeks of careful help machine-gun, a knife and an au- from a trained counsellor, she tomatic pistol drawn with such is now improving, sometimes

And there was a three-yearold giri who would freeze and Gahinete drew burning cry helplessly whenever she houses, a man hiding behind a heard the engine of a vehicle. tree with a gun, and bullets Counselling established that Gezimjeta, whose name means Happiness of Life, had become

hyperactive, they can't mix with ethnic cleansing last year.

"All of these children have seen terrible things" said Elvana Zhezhe, co-ordinator of the programme. "We encourage them to draw what they have seen and then talk about it. This helps and once a child has told a story often enough, it feels to them as if the story is about someone else."

There are only three counsellors to help the refugees, but more Albanians are being trained to go out and work with the other traumatised children of ethnic cleansing. The counselling among the miserable hordes of Kukes is already working its magic, encouraging smiling faces in a place where more than 100,000 people are living in conditions more likely to make one cry.

Heavy rain has turned already muddy refugee camps into quagmires. Families spend hours each day trudging ankle deep in mud from wet tents to water standpipes, or standing cold and soaked in queues for



Bujar Telaku, a 10-year-old refugee from Kosovo, grimacing as nurses give him a vaccine yesterday at a camp in Kukes

tory, we found hundreds of people living in squalor, sharing just four toilets - only one of which worked - eating cold food and washing clothing outdoors.

The policy now is to move the refugees south, to various parts cleared out in darkness from a

Serbian artillery. The UNHCR says no one will be forcibly moved, but in the early hours of yesterday, an entire camp of rough tents and tractors covered in plastic sheeting was

its occupants apparently being given little choice by local police over whether or not to board waiting buses. It might not be a subtle way

of helping people, but anywhere outside the former Yugoslavia - has to be better than here.

Unicef nursery based at a dis- the Serbian tanks which had used cinema in the northern surrounded her family's home bread and tinned fish or beans. frontier town of Kukes, the place through which more than still clings to her father. He says The aid agencies have worked deepening mud but good hard to keep so many people healthcare, and so on. 300,000 refugees - at least half that when they return home to alive and to prevent the spread camp is known for its good of disease, but the conditions in food but bad sanitation, the Many refugees have been of them youngsters - have Kosovo they will walk. taken in by generous Albanian Greek camp for its weatherwhich the displaced have been There was one girl in her proof tents, the United Nations families. Others have paid unearly teens who lost the use of living are appallingly degrading. scrupulous landlords for over-Commissioner for Their experiences have left her legs for 10 days after wit-The refugees have been Refugees (UNHCR)/Médecins priced places in disused most of the children troubled, nessing some horror, while a 13spread among about a dozen sans Frontieres camp for its factories. In one old carpet faccamps run by different nations but a considerable number year-old boy is receiving help for Lowest Prices FUJI Digital Camera An excellent introduction into the world of digital photography, 1024 × 768 ma resolution. 2Mb SmartMedia

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Nato states supply oil to Serbia

FUEL SUPPLIES

THE YUGOSLAV state oil company is still taking direct deiveries of refined products ported to have arrived two days from European Union countries

including Britain. oslavia's fuel-storage capacity and the EU assured the world it was rushing through an embargo, agents at the Montenegrin port of Bar said yesterday that Jugopetrol, the Serbian oil company, had been receiving huge deliveries of refined fuel oil and diesel, both vital for keeping Slobodan Milo-

sevic's military on the rails. Oil-refining and storage facilities have been key targets in Nato's bombing campaign but the interests of big business, particularly in Italy and Greece, both of which belong to Nato, mean Belgrade is still a valued customer. Italy and Greece have been most reluctant to agree to the EU embargo, which for "legal" reasons will only take effect from the middle of next week.

A Piraeus-based trader was quoted in the Financial Times as saying the embargo would probably be ineffective. "Be sure, oil will still get to Yugoslavia whatever the EU decides. The profits will be immense. And the way the Greeks feel about what's happening to the Serbs they'll make sure they send it."

While Italy and Greece are the main suppliers, shipments do to prevent Russia, China or have also been coming from

Texaco said that 10 days ago it delivered 65,000 barrels of petrol to Yugoslavia from a British refinery aboard a vessel chartered from a Greek company. More cargoes have been arriving in recent days, ac- amounts" may have gone anycording to shipping agents.

A French ship, chartered by Jugopetrol in Slovenia, was reago carrying 2,600 tons of diesel. Larger vessels carrying As Nato claimed success in fuel oil or diesel destined for the destroying 25 per cent of Yu- Serbian company have also been seen docking at Bar in recent days, although some of this fuel may have been destined for consumption in Montenegro.

The EU ban is intended to hit supplies of oil to Montenegro as well as Serbia but one potential loophole could still be exploited by oil companies.

It would exempt oil destined for helping displaced people within Yugoslavia in projects monitored by the International Red Cross and UN refugee agency. Shipments already on their way to Yugoslavia would also fall clear of the embargo. Each member-state is expected to determine individually the sanctions to be imposed on anyone breaking the ban.

Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, yesterday asked the frontline states in the Balkans to join the embargo. The foreign ministers of Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia were urged to "join Nato and the EU in doing all we can to stop petroleum products from reaching Belgrade's armed forces".

Experts say that without a UN Security Council resolution there is little the allies can Libya trading with Belgrade.

Hungary shipped 8,000 tons of Russian oil at the beginning of April, a paper claimed. Officials earlier said there had been no shipments since the bombing began but on Wednes-day a minister admitted "small

TIMETABLE: DAY 31

Friday 23 April

1 am: Huge explosion at the RTS building in Belgrade. where Serbian TV has its main studio, takes all channels off the

7am: Serb TV resumes broadcasting from secret transmitters 2.20pm: Russia's Balkan envoy Viktor

Chernomyrdin says Milosevic has agreed to the deployment of foreign troops in Kosovo. 2.50pm: Reports that ethnic Albanian guerrillas fighting inside Kosovo have written to Nato asking for air drops or ground forces to combat Serbian security forces

they say are dispersing and digging in across the province. 3.20pm: Yugoslavia says it discussed a possible unarmed UN presence in Kosovo with Russian peace envoy - apparently contradicting the envoy's reported statement that

Beigrade had agreed to admit troops. 3.55pm: Nato says the reported Yugoslav offer on foreign presence in Kosovo falls well short of what is required. 4pm: Tanjug reports two

Nato missiles have exploded near Pristina. 5pm: Yugoslavia tells the UN that Nato bombing of its chemical, oil and pharmaceutical installations has caused an "ecological

catastrophe". 5.30pm: Albanian police load 3.000 refugees on to buses in Kukes and move them out of town. 5.30: A UNHCR team in Malina Mala on the Macedonia-Kosovo border urgently requests food and clothing for 100 refugees found in a mosque there who had walked 10 hours in the rain. Some of the children seemed unconscious,

unable to talk or eat.

THE BALKAN QUESTION

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED

Are the Serbs the crack fighters they are made out to be? The Serbs certainly think they are, although ironically they have made a cult of the Battle of Kosovo, which they lost to the Turks in 1389.

In spite of that celebrated and highly symbolic defeat, no other nation in the Balkans has such a clear image of themselves as warriors. This self-confidence often

transmits itself to visitors, such as Winston Churchill's Balkan emissary in the Second World War, Fitzroy Maclean. the view that the Serbs singlehandedly held down a host of German divisions.

In fact, the Serb martial record is patchy. They fought tremendously well in the 19th century against the Ottomans, when they liberated Serbia from the Sultan's rule, and in 1914 and 1915, when they trounced the Austrians at-

tempting to storm Belgrade. But other wars went badly. In the 1870s, Serbia took on Bulgaria and was soundly defeated, while in the Second

who did much to disseminate World War the Serb-led Yugoslav army put up only nominal resistance to Germany.

Much of the confusion about the Serbs' fighting ability centres on the Partisan guerrilla fighters whose successes the Serbs have largely appropriated as their own.

What is often forgotten is that while Serbs certainly made up the biggest contingent of fighters, the Partisans were essentially a multi-ethnic army and their commander, Josip Broz Tito, was half Slovene, half Croat.

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6A fax arrived from Burchill reminding me: 1) that she was deeply professionally indebted to my wife; 2) that she continued to praise my writing; and 3) abjuring me not to regard her as a "heartless bitch"?

عكذا من الاحل

CLASH OF THE TITANS: WILL JULIE BURCHILL SURVIVE THE WILL SELF INTERVIEW?

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING DARCUS HOWE, HOY HATTERSLEY, DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, PEREGRINE WORSTHORNE, JAMES DELINGPOLE, ALAN WATKINS, JOAN SMITH, DEAR ANNIE AND WALLACE ARNOLD

'Rochdale, the last place for **US-style** 'shooting'

AS THE silver BMW roared down the road, pursued by police, the front-seat passenger leant from his window repeatedly and shot at bystanders with

"I heard a helicopter overhead and went out to see what was happening," said Anthony Hodgson, who watched the gunmen tear past with a police convoy 200 yards behind, and people in the street diving for cover "A BMW went by at about 90mph, followed by the first police car. The BMW went round the corner and I couldn't see it any more then a lot more police vehicles arrived."

Moments later, the police rammed the hijacked vehicle off the road and the two occupants jumped from the car, firat the police who had surrounded them. Dumping the woman owner of the car they had taken as hostage, the two men tried, unsuccessfully, to escape on foot.

The drama that ended in the centre of Rochdale yesterday direction of Rochdale.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE. LINUS GREGORIADIS AND PAUL WAUGH

afternoon and resulted in the shooting of five bystanders, had begun an hour earlier at Thornton Services at Garstang on the M6 close to Lancaster. Police tried to question the

occupants of a red Rover. The car sped off - the Lancashire officers in high-speed pursuit. With the force's helicopter overhead, the chase headed south towards Manchester,

with the police radio-ing their

chester force for assistance. In an attempt to shake off their pursuers, the men in the car drove into Horwich, near Bolton. They dumped the Rover and hijacked a BMW saloon being driven by a 27year-old woman.

They are said to have fired their weapons into the air before forcing the woman into the back seat and setting off in the



A police officer examines the wreck of a BMW car which crashed at the end of a police chase, following a series of apparent drive-by shootings in Rochdale

colleagues in the Greater Man-There were two marked men were apparently firing inpolice Range Rovers going at high speed, followed by other unmarked cars with flashing lights," said Wendy Albison, 60, a hairdresser in the village of Bamford, "A helicopter was buzzing around overhead.

One of the cars pulled up at bus stop and then headed back in the direction from which it had come."

By this stage, as they approached Rochdale, the gun-

discriminately at bystanders. A 76-year-old man waiting at

a bus stop in Edenfield Road was shot in the leg as the car sped past. "I heard some echoing nois-

es - at first I didn't think they were gunshots," said a local bookmaker. "I went outside and I saw a man at the bus stop lying there and someone was helping him.

"He had been shot in the leg.

I helped him and kept a wet they passed another bus stop towel pressed on his leg until a doctor came out of a surgery."

The incident happened outside the home of the mother-inlaw of the pop singer Lisa Stansfield. Jane Devaney said: "You hear about these things happening in America but you don't expect it to happen on your own doorstep," she said.

The gunmen sped on, leaving maybem and agony in their wake. It is believed that as

one of them leant out and fired again - hitting more people. Among the injured was an el-

derly woman. With a convoy of police vehicles in pursuit, the gunmen headed towards the centre of Rochdale, speeding down Manchester Road. As they sped past a cyclist, one of the men again fired from the window, hit-

ting him in the thigh. Outside Rochdale Town

Hall, the gunmen came to a dead-end and were forced to turn around. They sped back along the way they had come, pursued by four police Range Rovers. It was at this point that

vehicle into a lamp-post. The two men leapt from the chicle, firing their guns.

Bill Shepherd, 57, a fork-lift truck driver at a nearby facto-

the police managed to ram the

police cars come down. It was just like a "Rambo" film. "The next thing, there were

a couple of gunshots and I saw the police had a man pinned to the road. I think the police had rammed the car.

"I heard three shots but I couldn't say where they came from. Then I saw another man pinned to the ground. The police asked me to pull my truck ry unit, said: "I was pulling out across the road to stop other of work when I saw at least 10 cars coming down."

Doctors cleared over baby overdose death

TWO DOCTORS accused of covering up a massive morphine overdose given to a premature coroner about the death of the baby were found not guilty of baby. serious professional misconduct yesterday by the General Medical Council. Louise Wood was one day old

when she received a morphine dose 100 times the intended amount at Rotherham District General Hospital on 1 October 1995. Within an hour of the two injections she was dead. Dr Vivian Michel, 45, a reg-

istrar, administered the fatal dose. Dr Jean Shorland, a consultant paediatrician whose job included monitoring drug dosages, instructed him to complete a "potentially misleading" death certificate, which made no mention of the overdose, the GMC professional conduct committee heard. The consultant should have known the morphine overdose was a possible cause of death, the committee found. Dr Shorland also should

have immediately informed the

The consultant admitted to making "a grave error of judgement" in not referring the case to the coroner. She said she believed Louise's death was caused by respiratory problems. Dr Shorland reported the matter to the coroner when she realised there was cause for concern, said her barrister,

Robert Seabrook. Announcing the decision, Sir Herbert Duthie, chair of the GMC professional conduct committee, told both doctors: "Taking all relevant matters into consideration, the committee has adjudged you to be not guilty of serious profes- Alle sional misconduct."

Outside the hearing, Dr Michel said: "This has been a very long and distressing time for everyone involved, especially Louise's family, and I realise that the matter has been fully investigated. I'm



Louise the fatal dose

very pleased with the decision that the GMC has reached

Allegations by nurses that they had warned Dr Michel the dose was excessive were found unproven.

The morphine was supposed to sedate the seven-week premature baby, who weighed 1.5kg and was suffering breathing problems, so that a chest

The dose was drawn up by Hilary Evans, a junior doctor, who made an error in calculation and placed a decimal point in the wrong place. The dosage should have been checked before being administered but it

was not, the GMC was told. Dr Evans, 29, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, was found not guilty of serious professional misconduct on Tuesday.

Louise's grandmother, Dorothy Wood, of Rotherham, said yesterday the family was "disgusted and distressed" by the decision. "It was upsetting when it happened. It brought it all up again now, and we feel it was for nothing."

An inquest in February 1997 recorded an open verdict on Louise's death but criticised Dr Evans for her mathemati-

cal skills. Mrs Wood said: "We feel that it was right that Hilary Evans was let off. She was made a scapegoat."

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Montgomery in talks to buy control of Express papers

THE DEPOSED Mirror Group chief executive, David Montgomery, is understood to be seeking to buy the Express

Mr Montgomery has met Lord Hollick, proprietor of T. ie Express and Sunday Express. as well as the Daily Star, and told him he is interested in buying the two flagship papers.

Both papers are edited by

Rosie Boycott, whom Mr Montgomery brought from magazine editing to edit The Independent on Sunday and, briefly, The Independent.

Mr Montgomery is believed Express that Mr Montgomery

BY DAVID LISTER Media and Culture Editor to have held talks with two

City venture capital companies, one of which is Apax, to raise money for the venture. He told friends he is keen to run a newspaper group again.

If Lord Hollick does decide to sell to Mr Montgomery he will probably sell the ailing Daily Star elsewhere, possibly to the Barclay brothers, whose representative, Brian Hitchen, has been seen in the building. But it is the seven-day

has his eyes on. The sale would Independent editor Andrew involve a kiss-and-make-up act between Lord Hollick and Mr Montgomery as the two did not get on when Lord Hollick was a non-executive director at the Mirror group under Mr

Montgomery. Journalists at The Express. a number of whom worked under Mr Montgomery, are said to be alarmed at the prospect of renewing acquaintance with him.

supporter who has financial interests in television including Channel 5, already seems to be

burying the hatchet with Mr Montgomery. One man who has stated in

Marr. He is said to have run into

Mr Montgomery at a restaurant where the latter said how nice it would be to work together again. Whether the feeling is mutual remains to be seen. Lord Hollick, a New Labour

He has been telling senior print that he is not the biggest journalists at The Express that

fan of Mr Montgomery is the Mr Montgomery was "a good Express columnist and former chief executive" at the Mirror.

Postcode

<u> </u>	t AutoRoute Express Great Britain 2000) @Ordnance Survey.	·		
00:00	DEPART Camden Town on the	A400	2 miles	N	
00:05	Turn left onto	A1	2 miles	N	
00:10 00:10	Turn right onto At Muswell Hill	A1000 A1000	1/2 mile 2 miles	N	Barnet Barnet
00:15	At Finchley stay on the	A1000	4 miles	N	Barnet
00:24 00:30	At Barnet bear right onto	A1081 A1	3 miles 1/4 mile	N	M25 J23 A1(M)
00:30	Bear right onto At M25 J23 A1(M) J1 stay on the	A1(M)	24 miles	N	A1(M) J4
00:56	At A1(M) stay on the	A1	5 miles	N	Discolation do
01:00 01:02	Go onto At Biggleswade stay on the	A6001 A6001	2 miles 1/2 mile	N W	Biggleswade
01:03	Turn right onto	A1	113 miles	N	
02:55	Stay on the	A1(M)	15 miles 71 miles	N	M18 J2 Scotch Corner
03:08 04:19	At A1(M) J1 stay on the At Scotch Corner stay on the	A1 A1	2 miles	N	A1(M)
04:20	At A1(M) turn off onto	B6275	11miles	N	
04:43 04:45	Turn left onto At W Auckland stay on the	A68 A68	2 miles 11 miles	NW NW	Tow Law Tow Law
04:57	At Tow Law stay on the	A68	8 miles	N	Castleside
05:05 05:19	At Castleside stay on the Go onto	A68 A69	12 miles 3 miles	N NW	Haydon Bridge
05:21	Turn off onto	A68	15 miles	N	Jedburgh
05:37 05:40	At Ridsdale stay on the At W Woodburn stay on the	A68 A68	2 miles 9 miles	N N	Jedburgh Jedburgh
05:49	At Rochester stay on the	A68	22 miles	NW	Jedburgh
06:13 06:23	At Jedburgh stay on the At St Boswells stay on the	A68 A68	9 miles 24 miles	N NW	Dalkeith Dalkeith
06:49	At Fala stay on the	A68	4 miles	w	Dalkeith
06:53 06:59	At Pathhead stay on the At Dalkeith stay on the	A68 A68	5 miles 6 miles	NW W	Dalkeith
07:12	Go onto	A700	1 mile	w	Mornigside
07:15 07:15	At Morningside turn right onto At Edinburgh turn left onto	A702 A90	1/4 mile 2 miles	N NW	Edinburgh Blackhall
07:21	At Blackhall stay on the	A90	2 miles	W	Cramond Bridg
07:26 07:33	At Cramond Bridge stay on the Stay on the	A90 Forth Road Bridge	6 miles 1 mile	NW	
07:35	Stay on the	A90	2 miles	N	M90 J1 M90 J2 M823
07:38 08:01	At M90 J1 stay on the At M85 M90 J10 turn off onto	M90 A912	27 miles 3 miles	N	*Check access
08:07	Go onto	A9	1/4 mile	N W	Perth
08:08 08:25	At Perth stay on the At Birnam stay on the	A9 A9	13 miles 1/2 mile	NW	Inver
08:25	Turn right onto	A923	1/2 mile	N N	Blairgowrie
08:26 08:27	At Dunkeld stay on the Turn left onto	A923 No name	1/2 mile 3 miles	W	Blairgowrie
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ı	At Daviot stay on the Turn off onto	A9 B865	5 miles 1 mile	N W	N Vessock
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14:32	At Jedburgh stay on the	A68	22 miles	s	Rochester
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15:39	At Castleside stay on the	A68	8 miles	E	Darlington
15:47 15:59	At Tow Law on the At W Auckland stay on the	A68 A68	11 miles 2 miles	E SE	Darlington Darlington
16:01	Turn right onto	B6275	11 miles	S	A1 (M)
16:24 16:26	At A1(M) bear right onto At Scotch Comer stay on the	A1 A1	2 miles 71 miles	S	Scotch Corner M62 J33
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ARRIVE Kings Cross

The new Bora. Any excuse.

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Boys to study ripping yarns

BOYS SHOULD read adventure stories such as Treasure Island and Kidnapped rather than romantic literature by Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters,

the Government said yesterday. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education. urged teachers to give boys ripping yarns to read to stop them being turned off English at school. Mr Blunkett wants to encourage the study of actionpacked detective stories, science fiction, thrillers and adventures such as the Sherlock Holmes series. Frankenstein or The War of the Worlds in new guidelines for the national curriculum, due to come into force next year.

Ministers believe that schools may reinforce the belief that reading is "uncool" by offering inappropriate books to teenage boys. A senior government source said: "The more adventurous stories may appeal particularly to boys. You might find their interests waning from other books. In the national curriculum there is Robert Louis Stevenson and Jane Austen but Robert Louis Stevenson is more likely to appeal to boys and schools should be aware of that."

Fewer than two-thirds of 11year-old boys achieved the expected standard in reading last year compared with nearly four-fifths of girls. Tests for 14year-olds show that while nearly three-quarters of girls reached expected standards in English less than three-fifths of boys hit the target.

Research carried out by the Government's curriculum advisers, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, has suggested that giving boys nonfiction and thrillers can increase English standards.

BY BEN RUSSELL **Education Correspondent**

Under the national curriculum, secondary school children must study two works of fiction by major writers from before 1900 and two by 20th-century authors. The recommended writers include Jane Austen, Emily and Charlotte Bronte as well as Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Henry James and H G Wells. The 20th-century recommendations include William Golding, Graham Greene and D H Lawrence.

Estelle Morris, an Education minister, said: "We have got to take very seriously the fact that boys do not read.

"I do not believe that there are boys' books and girls' books. But all the evidence is that boys do not read enough. which is a massive problem which we must address in terms of the underachievement of boys and there are some books which have content which boys prefer to read."

The Government's stance was backed by head teachers yesterday, who claimed that boys were being "turned off" school at a younger and

John Dunford, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, which is holding its annual conference in Brighton, said boys as young as 12 were becoming disaffected with school.

Mr Dunford, the former head teacher of a big comprehensive school in Durham, said: "When I started teaching it was 16-year-olds you had to worry about, now it is 12 and 13-

"I have seen the age dropping throughout my teaching career. We are seeing it at the teacher of Melbourn Village is still far too wide for comfort."



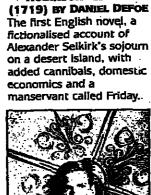
Frankenstein (1818) by Mary Shelley The prototypical horror story of a man-made monster who turns on its creator, it is also a moving variant on the Noble Savage theme of innocence betrayed.



THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (1898) BY H G WELLS Generally held to be the first true British science fiction novel, it is the story of how spidery Martians land in Woking and trash the Surrey countryside as



KIDNAPPED (1886) BY R L STEVENSON Highland and high seas romance following David Balfour, swindled out of his inheritance, and Alan Breck, Jacobite adventurer, as they trek across Scotland.



(1895) BY H G WELLS SF adventure that turns into socio-political allegory when the Traveller's excursion into the 800th millennium finds most humans mutated into a nasty throng of Moriocks.

age of 12, which is alarming, whether it is because of increasing maturity or the increasing influence people have through the Internet and

Judith Mullen, the association's president and the head

College in Cambridgeshire said: "How often do we see the bright-eyed bushy-tailed student, often male, switch off or no longer finding school challenging and stimulating? The gap between attainment of boys and girls in many of our schools

Three right-wing groups claim link to Brixton bomb

MI5 AND the Metropolitan By IAN BURRELL Police Racial and Violent Home Affairs Corr Crimes Taskforce are investigating the Brixton nail bombing as Scotland Yard becomes increasingly convinced that the bomber was racially motivated.

Detectives investigating the explosion, which hit a busy shopping market in south London last Saturday injuring 39 people, are pursuing the theory that the bomber is a renegade member of a far-right organisation with a racist grudge.

At a briefing yesterday, Detective Chief Superintendent John Bunn, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the racial motive was a "very, very serious line of inquiry".

the possibility that it was white this brutal crime.'

Combat 18. The claims included one

IN BRIEF

'Lethal' heroin link to five deaths DRUG USERS were warned yesterday about a "potentially lethal" form of heroin that may have caused the deaths of

five people in the past week. Detectives fear that the link between five deaths in Norfolk could be a "particularly

MANDY ALLWOOD, who was pregnant with octuplets but

lost all the babies, has pleaded guilty to mortgage fraud.

At Birmingham Crown Court yesterday, Allwood, 33, was bailed after admitting giving false information to a bank

Octuplet mother's house fraud

pure" form of heroin known as China White.

and a building society. The case was adjourned.

Lawrence parents honoured

DOREEN AND NEVILLE Lawrence, parents of the

Traffic relief for Stonehenge

to reduce traffic near the world heritage site.

THE INDEPENDENT continues to win awards for

journalistic excellence. David McKittrick, Ireland

murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence, were

named media personalities of the year at the Race In

The Media Awards at the Savoy in London yesterday.

A £125M cut-and-cover tunnel and a new visitors' centre

will be built outside Stonehenge in Wiltshire in a scheme

Independent's writers win awards

Correspondent, was named Feature Writer of the Year in

the Northern Ireland press and broadcast awards last

the national newspaper award in the Commission for

night. Hilary Clarke of The Independent on Sunday won

Racial Equality annual Race in the Media awards for an article on race relations in the East End of London.

He said: "We are looking at

Home Affairs Correspondent

racist thugs who committed It was revealed that three

more extreme right-wing "groups" have claimed responsibility for the attack, following an earlier claim purporting to come from neo-Nazi thugs

from someone using the name White Wolf, who has a long history of writing hate mail to black groups and recently sent a vitriolic circular to black MPs. Another claim was made by a group called the English Na-tional Party.

which would corroborate their involvement. Mr Bunn confirmed yester-

day that MI5 and Commander John Grieve, the head of the Racial and Violent Crimes Taskforce and the man investigating the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, were participating in the bomb investigation.

Police are still looking at the claim said to have been made by Combat 18. Mr Bunn said: "That line of inquiry is being investigated very thoroughly and

looked at in meticulous detail." Combat 18 has been under such heavy police surveillance in recent months that experts believe it would have been

None of the claimants has difficult for it to carry out the given any specific information attack.

Detectives have not ruled out the possible significance of a broken-down 159 bus which had stalled close to where the bomb went off. Mr Bunn said it was conceivable that Brixton was not the bomber's target. "There is the possibility the bomber got off that bus and was on his way somewhere else," he said.

A £30,000 reward has been offered for anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of suspects.

Police will today stage a reconstruction at the scene of the bomb. Officers will seek to trace new witnesses - particularly those who only use the

Mother ordered to send son back

AN ENGLISHWOMAN who fied BY STEPHEN HOWARD with her children from Cyprus bling husband was ordered to send her son back.

She found a home in Britain and her son, aged six, and 14year-old daughter (who has a different father) were settled in full-time education after a High Court judge allowed her to stay.

But three Appeal Court judges yesterday ruled that she must comply with the Hague Convention, the treaty covering "love-tug" children, Al-British citizenship, the boy was must be decided there. Now the woman, who met and married her husband in Britain, faces months of uncertainty battling over custody in Cyprus.

fused to return the son after the

after alleged abuse by her gam- mother pleaded that he would be at grave psychological risk. Under Article 13B of the convention, cases where there is a danger of physical or psychological damage become exceptions to the rule that children unlawfully taken must be returned to their country of origin. But Lady Justice Butler Sloss said the mother was "the author of her own misfortunes. The parent is creating the psychological situation and though both parents have not the child. Article 13B would be relied on by every mother. born and raised in Cyprus and and it would drive a coach and under the convention his fate four through the convention. Itis not in the interests of international relations."

The ruling is to be sent to a court in Cyprus, which will hear the case over the son's In January a High Court final residence Identification of judge, Mrs Justice Hogg, rethe family is barred to protect the children

Fantastic





Kings Cross

The sorry state of English nationalism

THE BBC did no service to English nationalism this week when it broadcast half an hour of propaganda for the cause. Perhaps this was intentional: liberal England (which must still include the BBC) has a nervous, half-ashamed attitude to Englishness, as though football, skinheads and bearskins are (and can be) its only viable expressions.

The programme was one in a series called Counterblosts and titled "The Race That Dare Not Speak Its Name", though I didn't know this at the time because I came across it when it was halfway through.

It was immediately compelling. A Leicester woman who collected little porcelain pigs had been visited by the police because the pigs, some of which were displayed on her window sill, had offended her Muslim neighbours. This, on the face of it, seemed absurd, The presenter and argufier, an unfamiliar silver-haired man called Alan Ford, engaging and "real" because he was clearly unpractised in television, moved on to other absurdities and unfairnesses. The Scottish and Welsh tourist boards were awash with cash. while the English tourist board had had its grant cut. Schools shied away from the teaching of traditional English history. It was all a bad business, the presenter said, and then proposed his liberating solutions.

England should follow Scotland and Wales and have its own parliament. English institutions – and not just football crowds - should be proud to fly the flag of St George. England should have "Jerusalem" as its official national anthem.

I sat nodding sympathetically, until Mr Ford began to outline the first measures an English parliament would take: the banning of "any further immigration from nonwhite countries" and "resettlement" offers to non-whites already here. Only then did I realise where Mr Ford was coming from: the white farright and its poisonous conflation of race and national

Does English nationalism have to be this way? I don't sible of the BBC to promote Think of Shakespeare and

NOTEBOOK



that implication - though I'm no particular enthusiast for

As a Scottish/British individual who has lived in England for going on 30 years, I've come to appreciate what might be called the decadence of English/British nationalism the porous uncertainties about its culture, the arguments over its past and future, which have allowed people from other places to be absorbed in the stream of national life (for contrasting examples, see countries that have prolonged more certain cultures, such as France and Germany).

But the "shame" of being

English has always puzzled me. English people - perhaps I mean by this liberal and usually middle-class people – will go to the extremities of personal and genetic history to demonstrate their unEnglish credentials; grannies from Argyll or Love, six years in a dorm at Fettes, accidental birth in Carmarthen - any or all of them wheeled forward to support the statement, beautifully enunciated in r-p: "Of course, I'm not really English."

For such people, English culture and history seems to comprise bad food, child chimney sweeps, the Amritsar massacre, the Titanic's navigating officers, Bloody Sunday, the Heysel riot and the Stephen Lawrence case. Good to remember these; a point in liberal England's favour. But when I hear grown men

and women confessing that they would rather be known by some piddling local provenance with its eroding encrustation of difference — to be thought of primarily, for example, as Geordies or Manthink so - in fact, I thought it cunians - what I want to shout was dull-witted and irrespon- is: "Cheer up and think big.

Dickens, Darwin and Newton. Think of well-behaved traffic. Compare London as a multicultural city to Paris or Berlin. Think of gardens, or Orwell, or the fine traditions of English comedy, satire and dissent. Listen to Kathleen Ferrier or Lennon and McCartney. And if none of this works for you, think of English, the world's triumphant language in most things from the best-selling novel to the Internet."

Yesterday was St George's Day. As a day of popular celebration of England's patron saint it died with the Reformation. There is now a movement for its revival. I hope it doesn't happen; distant - in this case, mythical - history has a way of gathering the volk (see the 14-century battles of Bannockburn and Kosovo) and it would be right up Alan Ford's racially exclusive street.

But if it must be celebrated, then the best spirit might be some combination of the lists above, the achievements punctuated by the transgressions and failures (Kipling's enjoinder to humility: "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet/Lest we forget - lest we forget").

THE EDITOR of The Independent has been regaling London society with a story that he thinks illustrates Englishness. It goes like this. Unknowingly, coincidentally, two men who write for the same newspaper take their wives and children for an Easter break on the Isle Unknowingly again, they

stay at the same small hotel. At six o'clock they take their children for an early tea in the hotel bar. The bar has no other cus-

tomers, but the men enter at different times and sit with their backs to one another. The first man spots the second man, the second man spots the first, but each believes he has not been counter-spotted. They help their children finish off the turkey dinosaurs and then, eyes purposefully focused on the hotel's marine prints, slide gratefully from the bar to the safety of their bedrooms.

Somehow - only God knows how - they never bump into each other over the next two days on the beach, over dinner,



St George meeting some resistance in Piccadilly Circus yesterday, the patron saint's day

in the lobby, on the street. They return to London. The Borgesian riddle is: how do they both come to know that each has seen the other?

Not so Borgesian, as it turns

out, because one of the men was me and as a precautionary measure I mentioned (I hoped, casually) to the editor that I thought (that is. I was far from certain) that I'd seen X (that is, perhaps distantly, in a seamist) on the Isle of Wight, just in case X had seen me and

thought my behaviour odd. desultory conversation about The Independent. Vagueness, however, proved impossible to preserve. The ed-The editor was astonished "desultory" and "Indepenitor's questions were too spe-

dent" not being words linked cific. Where had I stayed, on in his mind - and turned his which days? "So why on earth didn't you speak to him?" the cross-examination to X, who at first denied all knowledge of my editor asked. Because, I said, I hardly knew him the works presence in the Seaview Hotel. Seaview, near Ryde, and then full-time in the paper's Canary Wharf offices, a place I haven't confessed that yes, he'd sat visited in four years). More imfour foot away from me in the portantly, I was with my fambar and averted his eyes for the same reason. ily in bucket-and-spade mode and didn't want to have a

All this week, the editor has

THIS WEEK a regular little

women and children first. I be-

lieve we behaved rather well.

feature began to appear in The Independent's foreign pages under the title "The Balkan Question: Key issues behind the war explained". It's couched in the most humble of forms - question and answer - but I was glad to see it. The paper has had many excellent dispatches from the Balkans, perhaps especially those of Robert Fisk and James Dalrymple, but daily reporting has its limitations.

By its nature it's good at the present but bad at the past, and it often assumes (because it has to - the pressures of time and space) that readers know more than they actually do. My own knowledge of the Balkans is distressingly thin, a rag-bag of odds and ends. Example, the British knew Serbia as Servia until 1916 when the "v" was replaced by the "b" to remove any implication of servility, which would not be fitting for one of our gallant allies in the First World War.

So I'm grateful to Marcus Tanner in this new series for supplying answers to the most basic questions. Example, that the hybrid Serb-Croat language died with Tito's Yugoslavia, to be succeeded by Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian, which are virtually indistinguishable; and that Slovenes and Macedonians have separate languages, but still Slavic.

Why does it help to know stuff such as this? In the Seventies, as a reporter in India. I used to look at the copy I'd sent back to London and think what a poor match it was to reality. An election in Uttar Pradesh could read like the same thing in Hertfordshire. The words were the same -"village", "majority", "polling station" - but what they described was totally different.

You had a narrative but its spare, simple lines badly needed the cross-hatching ink that could describe the society in which it was set (and which you, as a reporter, were just beginning to discover). The divisions of India are complicated and those in the Balkans probably more so. We need all the sonally, on the principle of help we can get.

groups ton bomb

ier ordered. nd son back



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Aylesbury Cambridge Hemel Hempstead Hull Marina Leeds/Brighouse

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Reading Southamptor

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Plymouth

Stevenage Taunton

Wakefield

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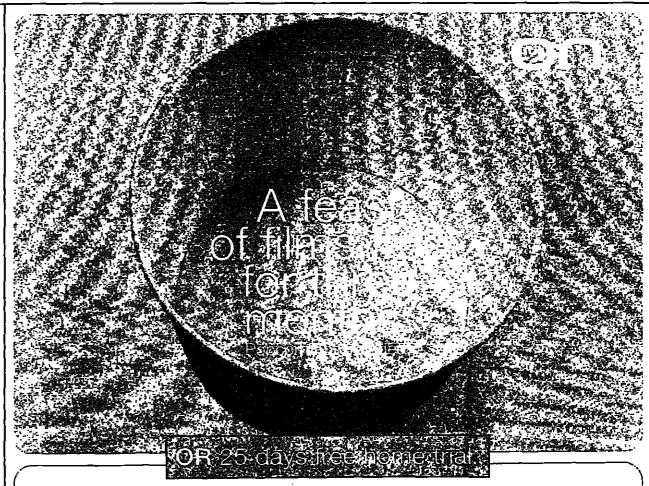
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been telling audiences that

this story is the most perfect

illustration of English behav-

iour he has ever heard, as

though X and I were Charters

and Caldicott in The Ladu

Vanishes, or two Victorian ex-

plorers passing each other in

Arabia Deserts with nothing

more than a gruff "good day".

The problem is that neither X

nor I is English (X being

Welsh-Italian, two identities

not known for reserve). Per-

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ONE SMALL ray of sunshine BY FRAN ABRAMS pierced the gloomy political kies over the Scottish Nationlong-awaited arrival of Sean ging 20 points behind Labour in were pinning hopes for a revival on their most famous backer.

His latest film, Entrapment, is litical angle by interviewing

Westminster Correspondent

al Party's headquarters: the out in the US and he entertained American film journal-Connery. With the SNP lag- ists at the fancy Witchery restaurant in Edinburgh last polls, campaign managers night. His schedule was further complicated by a crew from the American 60 Minutes pro-But before turning his mind gramme who are making a a rally on Monday and a party accompanied him around the political broadcast, the former streets where he was once a Bond star had other business. milkman and slotted in the po-

the SNP leader, Alex Salmond. who must have been happy to inject a little glamour into an otherwise desperate campaign.

Connery is staying with his wife, Micheline, in the five-star Caledonian Hotel, where the American film corps is also billeted. Leaving the hotel yesterday, he was asked when he was joining the SNP campaign. to a big set-piece appearance at documentary about him. They He replied: "I never left." Asked what he thought of Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, Connery said: "What team does he play for?"

ed the SNP's best hope of persuading Scots to vote, as its last broadcast entreated, with their hearts, Previous interventions by him had remarkable effects: a 1991 broadcast was followed by a seven-point rise in ratings. His support has a down side,

donor, giving £40,000 a year, and it has caused controversy. Even after registering to vote in London the actor, who lives abroad but who is said to nationalists hoping for on. Conbe looking for a home in Scot- nery's presence will remind could generate valuable jobs.

spokesman, asked about the Connery effect, said: "It is going to be difficult for someone who is not resident in the UK and being liable for tax to tell hardworking Scots to pay more."

though; he is the SNP's biggest Labour refuses to display complacency but only a miracle can put the SNP ahead in polls. But that will not stop the

Connery's presence provid- land, was dubbed "The member Scots they can compete with for the Bahamas". A Labour the best in the world, they say, while Labour asks them to be content with what they have. "He is the living embodiment of the fact that we don't have to who can only spend a certain buy into the parochial undernumber of days here without achieving, happy-with-whatwe've got Labour vision of Scotland," a party worker said.

the heat of an election, it will continue to court Connery afterwards. His promise to establish a film studio in Scotland

He has met Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. And, whether or not he can influence the result, Scottish politicians expect to

see more of Connery. "I can't just play golf, do nothing else and then play gin more than that. I'm caught by what's happening in Scotland.

Whatever Labour may say in Pm caught by the timing of it all ... I'm now in my 69th year and have an opportunity to do something really worthwhile and interesting there," he said

Socialist is Blair's worst nightmare in Scotland

"HOWZIT GOIN', pal?" Tommy By MARY BRAID Sheridan, eternally solicitous for the welfare of the workers, inquires of the Glasgow council employee on the phone, before confirming, with man-of-thepeople modesty, that "It's tional representation. The SSP Tommy ... aye, Councillor Sheridan calling.

Almost a decade has passed dan, now 35, became Scotland's foremost (living) working-class hero, while spearheading the campaign against the poll tax, the Thatcher policy which. more than any other, sealed PR offers to little parties. "The Scotland's political estrange- SSP holding the balance of ment from London.

he languished in Saughton Prison. Edinburgh, for refusing Mr Sheridan grew up, and to to electability. which he returned after uni-

graduated from the Tories' bo-

ъ.

paid-up members) could, according to some polls, hold the balance of power in the new Parliament, elected by proporcould sneak into Holyrood with as many as eight seats.

Sitting in his office, beneath since the handsome Mr Sheri- a poster in which Margaret Thatcher metamorphoses, in two neat, easy steps, into Tony Blair. Mr Sheridan, though cautious about poll predictions, clearly revels in the possibilities power is Donald Dewar's night-Mr Sheridan was voted on to mare scenario," he smiles. "But Glasgow City Council in 1992 as we could just find ourselves in that position."

If the "nightmare" comes to pay the tax. The vote was a true, New Labour can expect no show of solidarity from the mercy from an SSP packed working-class estates of the with the militants it expelled on Pollok district of Glasgow where the long and bloody road back

South of the border, Mr versity to incite poll tax protests. Sheridan would be dismissed as On the eve of the elections to a left-wing loony. And even in Scotland's Parliament, he has more socialist Scotland, a few denounce the Pied Piper of geyman to menace New Pollok as a dangerous "heid-Labour. For Mr Sheridan's tiny banger" who, behind an egali-Scottish Socialist Party (1.200 tarian front and matey humour,



Tommy Sheridan at a Scottish Socialist Party fringe meeting at the Scottish Trades Union Congress in Glasgow

is manipulating the masses. Many Scots, however, admire the man even when they dislike his politics. For while he has been eulogised by some journalists as the "most gifted politician of his generation", he has rejected career advancement to champion his

uating from Stirling University he lives in a Pollok council flat, chasing up housing complaints. agitating for the revolution. and surviving on a £6,500 annual councillor's allowance.

His living-room is a shrine to socialism. Lenin gazes down

class. Some 14 years after grad- from above the gas fire. On the Tupperware box. Pictures of his houston Sports Centre," he opposite wall is a picture of Clydesiders, whose dream of a Scottish people's republic caused David Lloyd George to send tanks to Glasgow.

Maclean was the father of Scotland's romantic indepen-Sheridan carries the flame. barred from coupling nationalism with socialism, the SSP is hoping to receive Labour supporters' second votes.

Mr Sheridan has developed militantism with a cuddly, human face. He flaunts his adoration for his trade unionist mum, Alice, and offers visitors homemade shortbread from a style permacolour. "At Bella-

John Maclean, one of the Red ardess, are pinned to his office a sunbed session". wall alongside Lenin. Two years ago his home an-

ality of his political beliefs also

have to battle against boy-next-Sheridan they come with touching human vanity. "Where do you get the tan?" asks a journalist at a poorly at-

tended SSP press conference of

Mr Sheridan's Derek Hatton-

girlfriend, Gail, an air stew- smiles. Council-run and "£1.65

And while po-faced militants stick rigidly to Marxist tract, Mr swering machine informed Sheridan is happy to chat about callers that he was probably out the personal. With middle age fighting the Tories. Now it re- looming, has he never regretports: "I ara probably out fight- ted not ditching idealism, dondent socialist tradition. Mr ing Blair and his new Tories." ning the suit and mouthing the Those who warn that he is New Labour script? "Nah." he with myself." But principles, he confesses, are harder to keep. door good looks. And in Mr Gail is 35 and they are both broody £6.500 a year is hardly going to raise a child, though a Scottish MP's salary would. Even £20,000 - the salary the

SSP has promised its members

would only accept if elected -

would be a fortune.

Salmond takes to streets for votes

in a recent interview.

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN AND ANDREW GRICE

THE SCOTTISH National Party abandoned its daily press briefings yesterday, signalling a deepening crisis caused by the party's poor showing in opinion

Trailing Labour by 20 points in the most recent poll, the SNP took its campaign to the streets in a series of walkabouts. Defending the change in tactics, Alex Salmond, the party's leader, said: "We have to face the fact that the vast majority of the press in Scotland are in the Labour Party's pocket.

"Instead of dancing to a tune they want to establish, what we have decided to do is take our campaign into the streets and homes of the people of Scotland. On that campaign we think we can win." Despite the SNP's decline,

Labour leaders are to issue a strong "no complacency" warning to party workers and supporters in Scotland. "Alex Salmond may be wounded and injured but he is not dead." a Labour spokesman said last 👣 night. "He is still dangerous. Now we have got to kill him off." Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who is playing a big role in Labour's campaign, is said to be worried that the party will

become complacent. Mr Salmond went on a walkabout in the Glasgow constituency of Govan, where the within 3,000 votes of beating Labour in the 1997 election. It had been thought that the SNP had a good chance of winning but serious doubts were raised yesterday about whether the SNP can even win there or in two of its other chief target seats - Ochil and Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber.

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> "Labour have a raft of new taxes all ready in the wings that they would inflict on Scots if unchecked."

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Halford, police dissident. ready for a political fight

a few scraps in her time. She accused Mersevside Police of sexism after being repeatedly refused promotion and, in her new role in the North Wales Police Authority, she has crossed swords with the chief constable, who she alleges is involved in

And now, most surprisingly of all, perhaps, given her Conservative upbringing in East Anglia, she has surfaced as a Labour candidate in the election for the Welsh Assembly.

She is standing in Delyn, North-east Wales and according to the Institute of Welsh Politics at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, she has a good chance of winning the seat "I'm not sure whether I voted or how I voted during my early years in the police. I imagine if I did vote it would have been Conservative. My parents voted Conservative," Ms Halford said.

She joined the police in 1962 and in her 21 years in London went from constable to chief superintendent, before becoming an assistant chief constable on Merseyside. Her conversion to Labour began in London. "I've always had a social conscience. I was very unhappy about people being forced to live in cardboard boxes.

Her two-year fight to prove she had been the victim of discrimination on Merseyside she was rejected for promotion nine times - ended with an outof-court settlement with both sides claiming victory.

Ms Halford moved to north Wales in 1994, when she joined the Labour Party and was soon asked to become a councillor. Inevitably, she was also seconded to the Police Authority Equally inevitably, perhaps, she has been involved in running



battles with Michael Argent, the chief constable.

Some of her political rivals she is running against three women - claim she is obsessed with police misdemeanours. She accuses senior police of undermining complaints procedures to protect officers from investigation. If it is an obsession, it is shared by other members of the Police Authority

and by two businessmen who have set up the "Campaign for Justice", seeking a Home Office inquiry into police activities in north Wales.

Ms Halford is anxious to show she is not a one-issue politician. She believes the Welsh Assembly will be far closer to the people it represents. She likes its "transparency and inclusiveness" and the balance between the genders. "I want the Assembly to behave ethically, not to squander money."

However, the phrase "equal opportunities" is never far from her lips. Would she advise a young woman to become a police officer? "There are dinosaurs and chauvinists in every walk of life. But I generalty think that most senior police officers are trying harder. The police service is a wonderfully fulfilling career or, should I say, way of life."

WILLIAM HAGUE made his second visit to Scotland in a week in an attempt to shore up his party's fortunes. Latest polls indicate that the party, which has no Scottish MPs at Westminster, will secure only 11 per cent of first-preference votes on 6 May Mr Hague said:

attacking each other, despite

parties will end up in LABOUR AND the Liberal Democrats spent the day



CAMPAIGNS BRIEFING

12 DAYS TO GO the expectation that the two

coalition after the election. Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former Liberal leader, urged

vote to his party. "The last thing Scotland needs is a Labour-dominated parliament," he said. The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, said: "It is nice of David Steel to acknowledge how strongly we are running. It certainly does

electors to give their second

not suggest the Lib Dems have much to offer if they are simply looking for votes on the rebound."

MIKE GERMAN, leader of the

Welsh Liberal Democrats was accused of overplaying his assertion that the people of Wales lived in fear of crime. One cynic said: "The only reason people fear crime is because every time they open their door, there's a Lib Dem there."

YESTERDAY'S Daily Record carried a front-page picture of a snarling Sean Connery chasing a photographer, with the headline: "You've seen the polis then, Sean." Who knows what might happen if SNP-supporting Connery got his hands on mild-mannered Donald Dewar?

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Poster in

Adoption law to be tighter

children brought to Britain from abroad for adoption were backed by MPs yesterday and could be law by the end of

Under the new legislation it will be an offence to bring a child into the country without the prior approval of the prop- and bring children into the UK er authorities and adoption agencies. It will also entitle adopted children to automatic British citizenship if one parent was British at the time the adoption was made.

Opening the second reading of his Adoption (Inter-country Aspects) Bill, Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester, said the legislation would send a clear signal to those trying to avoid the rules that "bringing a child into this country in the back of a car, late at night into Margate, will result in prosecution".

The same standards should to adopt from overseas should he applied to those seeking to continue to be facilitated."

BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

adopt from abroad as at home. he said. "Regrettably there are estimated to be about 100 cases each year where people try to avoid the adoption procedures without being properly assessed to become adoptive parents."

Endorsing the Bill, John Hutton, a Health minister, said the Government recognised the need for legislation as the circumstances of adoption had changed considerably since the 1976 Adoption Act. "Intercountry adoption has been growing steadily in recent years, providing an option for people who cannot have children of their own or who wish to extend their existing families," he said. "It is the Government's view that the opportunity

For too long adoption had been seen as a "last resort", which was a "misconception", he said. "Adoption must be seen as a positive option for children ... for some children it provides a fresh start and possibly the only opportunity of experiencing family life." David Chaytor, Labour MP

for Bury North, said the Bill was "extremely timely" because the Kosovo crisis would "inevitably encourage more people in Western Europe, and the United Kingdom particularly, to take an interest in this issue out of a genuine humanitarian response to many, many thousands of individual personal tragedies". Alan Duncan, a Tory health

spokesman, said the Opposition welcomed the Bill. "This country does need a proper legislative framework for intercountry adoption and the sooner we get it the better." The Bill was given an unop-

posed second reading.

Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, relaxing with pupils at Beaufront school, near Mike Scott/North News & Pictures Hexham, Northumberland, during a visit to mark World Book Day

Ousted MP in setback

NEWARK VACANCY BY ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

FIONA JONES, the former MP for Newark, suffered a setback vesterday in her legal battle to

resume her Commons seat. The High Court was told that the Commons Speaker and the Attorney General were both "neutral" over whether a by-election should be held in Newark to fill the vacancy created when she was convicted for making a false declaration over her election expenses. Mrs Jones had hoped to receive a "positive" declaration.

Although Mrs Jones won her appeal, the Commons authorities are applying to the High Court to clear confusion over whether a vacancy can be filled without a by-election. If there is a contest, she is unlikely to be chosen by Labour as the party's candidate.

Yesterday's hearing was adjourned and a full hearing is expected to be held next week.

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So now we know, Lilley is for turning

THE DEPUTY leader of the Conservative Party, Peter Lilley, has faced a barrage of almost universal criticism and ridicule from Tory backbenchers and several members of the Shadow Cabinet for his change of tone towards health and other public services.

His speech, given earlier this week for true believers to celebrate (slightly early) the 20th anniversary of Baroness Thatcher being elected prime minister, was certainly ill-timed. Emphasising that there is more to life than defending and extending the free market he declared: "There are distinct limits to applying the free-market paradigm in the public services."

The speech had the full approval of William Hague but harsh criticism of it came from Eric Forth and Edward him at the 1922 Committee.

Mr Lilley is still a member of the group, of which he was a founder member in 1983, but he failed to attend its monthly dinner two days after the speech and members were angry that he was kicking away the Thatcherite ladder, up which he had climbed to prominence. Even Alan Duncan, a close friend of Mr Hague, was furious that Mr Lilley had cut the ground from under his feet.

Only three weeks ago, Mr Duncan, a health spokesman. issued a Central Office press release of a much-praised speech on health care he had given to the Social Market Foundation.

lissiden

ical fight

In it he said: "The NHS cannot do everything, so there will always be more to be done. This requires us to define a Conservative philosophy of health care ... we need to add a thriving personal sector to the public sector NHS we already have."

Mr Lilley himself has a mass of words for eating, not least in the lecture he gave in 1989 just before he secured his cabinet place. Speaking on "Thatcherism – The Next Generation" he dealt with market forces in the public sector services. He said: "Every individual is a market force. It is true that the principles of choice, reward for quality and devolution of responsibilities have not been allowed to operate within the state health and education systems. But it is not clear why these principles should be anathema."

Tuesday's £125-a-head dinner at the London Hilton Hotel for 1,000 of the faithful was like a revivalist rally for the ancien regime but only included 22 Tory MPs. The meal was held to mark

(two weeks early) the anniversary of the Conservatives coming to power in 1979 and everyone, including Sir Edward Heath, was on their best behaviour.

Revealing that she could never have made it to the top without her husband. Sir Denis Thatcher, "let alone go on and on and on", Lady Thatcher described his reaction when she told him she



THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BROWN

intended to seek the party leadership. "He said, 'Good Leigh of the No Turning Back Lord! You must be mad, but Group, who led the attacks on I'll support you all the way'." Lady Thatcher continued: "I suspect that Ted Heath would agree with at least half that

There was something for everyone in a speech that recalled the glory days but offered strong support to the Government on the Balkan war. Both John Major and Lord Hurd of Westwell, who were absent, faced strong implied criticism.

"Appeasement has failed in the Nineties as it failed in the Thirties," she said. "For eight years I have called for Serbia to be stopped. The West could have stopped Milosevic in Slovenia or Croatia in 1991 or in Bosnia in 1992."

ATTEMPTS BY this column to obtain speeches, lectures and articles, written by Peter Lilley during his Eighties days as an unreconstructed Thatcherite, drew a blank at Conservative Central Office.

Presumably, to rewrite his-

tory and erase all memories of his past policies and speeches, the party bookshop, which was once housed in the reception area at Smith Square, has been abolished. Frantic searches for old No Turning Back Group pamphlets and Centre for Policy Studies lectures given by Mr Lilley ended, finally, with a single phone call to Labour's Milibank headquarters. Within minutes a thick

wad of such publications landed, with a thud, at The Independent's nook in the Press Gallery. All carefully indexed with the Labour Party Library stamp, they are now more likely to be read by Labour ministers, as old Tory favourites such as the Private Finance Initiative for Hospital Building, stalled under the Tories, gain fresh momentum under this Government. Students of free market economics are now beating a path to Millbank, which has one of the best libraries of past Conservative Party publications.

Labour Party officials refuse to be drawn, however, on whether copies of the old Labour constitution - complete with Clause Four - were also still available.



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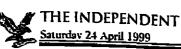
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Irn Bru girds its loins for Coca-Culloden

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN Scotland Correspondent

IRN BRU, the fizzy drink, "made in Scotland from girders", is heading for battle with Coca Cola. The American multinational confirmed this week it is determined to crack Scotland which, alone among the world's nations, has failed to make Coke its favourite drink

A special Coca-Cola sales team has been recruited to dislodge Irn Bru from the number one spot. "The new team," said a Coca-Cola spokesman, "is already up and running."

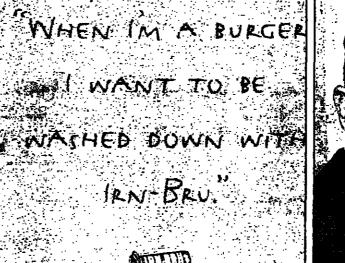
The plan is to expand production at the company's only plant in East Kilbride. One tac-tic will be Coca-Cola's policy of "glocalisation", tailoring promotions to local markets. As sponsors of Euro 96 and the World Cup Finals, Coca Cola ran competitions in the Scottish media offering the prize of tickets for Scottish matches.

Coca-Cola, cagey this week for fear of upsetting potential buyers, is confident that its new marketing stormtroopers will make an impact in Scotland. And there is much to fight for. Scotland has the highest per capita spending in Britain on soft drinks. It is said that, in parts of Glasgow, some households drink nothing else; no tea, coffee or water, just large bottles of Irn Bru.

Irn Bru, though dwarfed by itable business and ready for a chewing gum.









Irn Bru, which has recently moved away from its traditional image with a series of 'hip' adverts, which have, according to journalist Pat Kane, 'descotified' the drink

fight. Last year its owner, Lanarkshire-based AG Barr, had a turnover of £107m and opening up operations in Russia, sold a million bottles in its

The recipe, like that for Coca-Cola, is a secret and only two men are thought to know how to mix the 32 ingredients. One of them is Robin Barr, the chairman of AG Barr, and the other is his cousin Michael Barr. The drink's taste is hard to define, although aficionados Coca-Cola, is a highly prof- liken it to liquefied Juicy Fruit

The battle to shake up the sweet drinks market could be bitter for Coca-Cola, according to Pat Kane, the Scottish journalist and singer with the band Hue and Cry.

He highlighted the coun-

tional Sunday morning breakfast of four Paracetamol and a bottle of Irn Bru. "It's a great hangover cure," he said. "We love to stodge ourselves up with lots of junk and the sugary

try's attachment to the tradi- stuff sticks to the ribs the best." A long-standing grudge persists between Coca-Cola and Irn Bru, which MacDonald's preferred to offer in its Scottish outlets until Coca-Cola objected. Irn Bru advertising

ative unpopularity. In one advertisement, featuring a cow, the slogan reads: "When I become a burger, I want to be beverage for "puddles" who washed down with Irn Bru." To beat off the competition

has made fun of its rival's rel- AG Barr has in recent years given the product an image makeover. It was originally developed as a non-alcoholic stirred vats of molten iron and

related accidents. For years Irn Bru maintained that manufacturing image, then the Leith Agency in Edinburgh took over the drink's advertising in the Nineties.

Gerry Farrell, creative director explained: "The old "made from girders" image means nothing to a London kid who is into Hip Hop and wears Tommy Hilliger clothes. We had to provide a crash course in Irn Bru. We think we can reach out to these people better than Coca Cola can. We cannot outspend them so we have to out-think them."

The result of all this, said Pat Kane, is that Irn Bru has been "descotified". "The danger is that Coca-Cola, by using its policy of localisation, will make its drink look Scottish."

Irn Bru, despite the bravado of its advertising agency, is a little shaken. "This story emanated from Coca-Cola and Barr Soft Drinks have no further comment to make," said its spokeswoman. The drink, however, retains a crucial advantage, said Pat Kane. "Coca-Cola could never be advertised as a

Salmon catch at record low

LAST YEAR's catch of spring- By MICHAEL MCCARTHY run salmon in England and Wales was the worst on record. the Environment Agency revealed yesterday.

The figures confirm the spiralling decline of the species and indicate that wild salmon stocks are at critically low levels.

The agency said they justify the controversial catch-and-release bylaws brought in this month, which for the first half of the season stop all netting in England and Wales, and compel anglers to return all fish alive to the water.

In the season up to 1 June 998, English and Welsh anglers compared to 1.381 in 1997 and 2,691 in 1996. Catches by netsmen suffered a similar decline. with only 832 fish taken in the 1998 early season, compared to 1,528 in 1997 and 2,913 in 1996.

In 1989 the rod catch in the season to June was 3,199 fish, with 4,742 taken in nets.

On individual rivers the decline over the last two decades has been catastrophic. In 1978, but that's not what we say."

Environment Correspondent

early-season anglers on the Severn took 718 fish; last year they took 76. On the Wye, 20 years ago the corresponding catch was 3,684; last year it was 78.

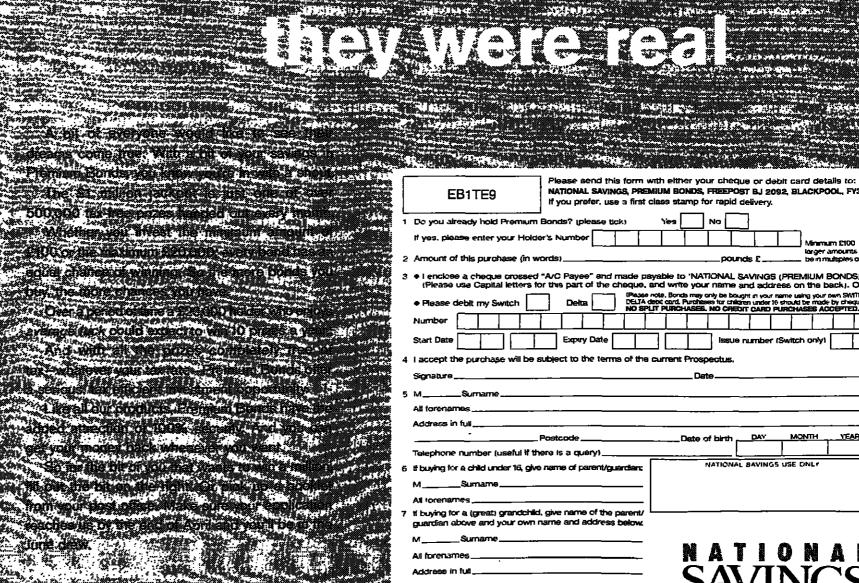
Dr David Clarke, the agency's head of fisheries, said the figures were a clear sign the new regulations are needed. The shortage of larger salmon, especially those running early in the year reinforces the need for the bylaws that came into force on 15 April," he said.

But the new restrictions have been controversial. On the Sevreported taking only 758 fish, ern and Wye they have halted use of a fishing trap used since Saxon times, the putcher, once made of willow branches but now often made of steel.

> John Walters, a putcher fisherman on the Severn whose six weeks, said the agency was depriving him of his livelihood. "I'm unhappy about it," he said. "They say the stocks are bad



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Blackadder made the official hero of English history

VISITORS TO the Millennium By PAUL McCann Dome will have the chance to see Cate Blanchett, Dame Judi Dench and Miranda Richardson jostling for the throne as the true Elizabeth I in a special Blackadder version of British history. The first new episode of the show for 10 years will be viewed by 50,000 people a day on Britain's biggest movie

Rowan Atkinson, Tony Robinson - who plays the much put-upon sidekick Baldrick -Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie will join a crowded cast of stars to tell a flawed version of the nation's history.

The £3m film, provisionally titled Blackadder Back And Forth, will see the regular cast travel backward and forward in time to take part in key historical events. These include the building of a prehistoric children's playground at Stonehenge, an incident in which Baldrick causes the beheading of Charles I and a Battle of Hastings with a new outcome.

"Blackadder finds himself in a time machine modelled on drawings from a book by Leonardo da Vinci," the executive producer, Geoffrey Perkins, said. "Unfortunately, it has been built by Baldrick out of empty Weetabix cartons and they spend their time strug- and Jennifer Saunders. The gling to get back to the present film will be written by the orig-

se si in of the or in of the or

in Montreaux



Cate Blanchett: Will be on screen at the Dome

day." The film is to feature characters from contemporary British culture, and the producers hope to sign up the footballer David Beckham so they can recreate his sending off against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup.

Other stars likely to appear include the generation of British comedians who became famous partly thanks to the four original series of Blackadder. These include Rik Mayall, Adrian Edmondson, Dawn French

inal authors of Blackadder, Ben Elton and Richard Curtis, who took time out from scripting Notting Hill to work on the

"A lot of the jokes and the stoyline are unfinished," said Tony Robinson when announcing the film at the Montreaux Television Festival. "But that was the way we always did it. It was a collaborative venture and was often left until the last

Queen Elizabeth I will be a major character in the film and the producers hope to sign up the award-winning actresses who have played her in recent years: "Blackadder wants to find out this time whether Elizabeth was a virgin queen or a big ginger tease." said Mr

The film is a collaboration between the BBC, which is providing Mr Perkins, its head of comedy, the independent production company Tiger Aspect and BSkyB, which is sponsoring the Millennium Dome's entertainment zone, Skyscape. The film will be shown on two screens 20 metres wide, in cinemas each capable of seating 2,500 people at a time.

On television, the four Blackadder series lampooned the Plantagenets, the Tudors, the Georgian Regency and the



Rowan Atkinson as Blackadder with Tony Robinson as the put-upon Baldrick in the television series

Sir Nigel to play 'Lear' in Japan

BY DAVID LISTER Media and Culture Editor

SIR NIGEL Hawthorne is to star as King Lear in a production of the play by the Japanese director, Yukio Ninagawa.

Sir Nigel's first leading stage role since his knighthood will be one of the highlights of the coming Royal Shakespeare Company season. The RSC is co-producing the play with Thelma Holt, a West End theatre producer.

A Japanese actor will play the Fool, and the production will open in Japan in September before transferring to the Barbican in London and then to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Announcing the RSC's winter season yesterday, the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, Adrian Noble, artistic director, said the success of the film Shakespeare in Love "can do nothing but good for the theatre". Twenty of the actors in Shakespeare in Love had "considerable RSC pedigrees" and most of the costumes were hired from its wardrobes.

He added: "I think the cinema has just about caught up with this matter of Shakespeare. In the 19th century the great popular art form in Europe was opera and the composers like Puccini and Verdi pillaged Shakespeare for stories, themes and characters."

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Life for bus driver who killed boy, 8

A BUS driver who befriended an eight-year-old passenger and let him hand out bus tickets before sexually abusing and then life yesterday.

After 13 hours' deliberation. a jury found 28-year-old Darren Vickers, from Gorton, Greater Manchester guilty of murdering Jamie Lavis on 5 May 1997.

The boy's dismembered remains were found on a golf course in Stockport, Greater Manchester, five months after his disappearance. No cause of death was as-

certained and there was no vickers to the killing.

Crown Court, Mr Justice Forbes told Vickers his crimes were "truly wicked".

He said: "Jamie's brief life was cruelly and prematurely brought to an end because he had the tragic misfortune of boarding your bus. You manipulated the family, the press and the police. You lied and lied and lied again."

the court had heard how Jamie. from Ashton-under-Lyme, had boarded Vickers' 219 bus in nearby Openshaw after he became bored staying at home on a bank holiday. Vickers allowed him to

During the seven-week trial,

change gear and count change. He also gave him money to buy drinks, ensuring that the child stayed on his bus all day.

Passengers saw Vickers ruffle the boy's hair, and another driver saw Jamie with his face pressed against the window of





Jamie Lavis, 8, was 'befriended, groomed and effectively forensic science evidence to link seduced' before being killed by Darren Vickers

was "grooming the boy for his own base motives". When the day ended, Vickers

drove the boy to Dukenfield, where he collected his car. Shortly afterwards, at an unknown location, he stripped and abused the boy, murdered him, dismembered the body and then concealed his remains. The boy's head and some of his limbs have never

In a perverse twist, Vickers then ingratiated himself with the boy's family. During the high-profile search for Jamie, Vickers was filmed for TV news bulletins comforting the family and appealing for information.

Vickers used a radio scanner to listen for information on the search for Jamie and would turn up at reported sightings before the detectives.

He also claimed to have started a sexual relationship the driver's cabin. The court with the boy's mother, Karen public funds for their help.

Yesterday at Manchester was told that, all along, Vickers Spooner - something she denied vehemently.

Brian Leveson QC. for the prosecution, told the court only two people really knew what had happened after Vickers lured the youngster into his car.

"Jamie Lavis isn't here to tell us, and his attacker hasn't told us yet," he said.

After yesterday's decision, Ms Spooner said she felt relieved "I don't really want to say how I feel," she said. "I hate the sight of him. Jamie can rest in peace now. We have got what we wanted. I hope [Vickers] suffers like I have suffered with my family for the last two years."

Mr Justice Forbes praised Detective Superintendent Roy Rainford and his colleagues at Greater Manchester Police for their hard work on the case. He also thanked two children. Zoe and Ashley, who helped the police to catch Vickers, and awarded them £150 each from

Younger adults hardly ever speak to neighbours

under 35 rarely or never speak to their neighbours, according often chat with people living to research published today.

A report by Royal Mail revealed they are more likely to keep in touch with someone on the other side of the world, with more than a third making regular contact with a friend or relative overseas.

A third of young adults only to know them any better. occasionally exchange pleasantries with a neighbour, the Royal Mail's 21st Century Fam-

A QUARTER of people aged By JEANETTE PEARSON

nearby and more than half say they are close friends.

Nearly a third of under-35s say they would not know their neighbour if they saw them, would only offer to help a neighbour if it was absolutely necessary and do not want to get

Stephen Davie, director of international communications for Royal Mail said: "The globily report showed. But more al village continues to shrink than 70 per cent of over-55s and in these days of improved

communication we are just as likely to feel we are neighbours' with someone across

the world as across the street." The report also revealed people live further away from relatives now than in the past, although most still live within an hour's journey. It showed that 72 per cent of grandparents still see their grandchildren at least once a week.

Just over one-third of adults in Britain would like to live abroad in the future, with the US, Australia and Spain the favourite destinations.



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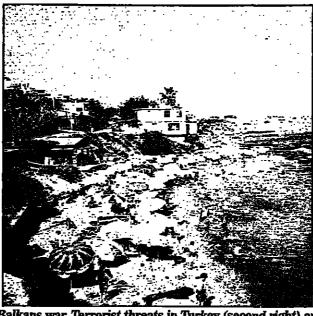
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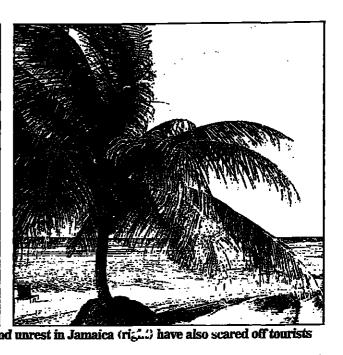


THE INDEPENDENT

<u>Saturday 24 April 1999</u>







Bookings to Dubrovnik in Croatia (left) and Ionian islands such as Corfu (above) have been hit by worries about the Balkans war. Terrorist threats in Turkey (second right) and unrest in Jamaica (right) have also scared off tourists Great places to visit, but no one wishes they were here

HOLIDAYMAKERS who have By SIMON CALDER not yet booked their summer holidays could be in line for the pick of thousands of bargain breaks. With one week to go before the main summer season begins, Britain's mass-market travel companies are offering big discounts as they try to of-

fload unsold package holidays. The situation is so grim that the launch of summer 2000 holiday brochures, expected this week, has been postponed because of poor sales this season.

Travel Editor

Optimistic forecasts within the travel industry have been confounded by recent events. Demand for holidays in Croatia and the Ionian islands of Greece has fallen sharply because of the conflict in the Balkans. In Turkey, the threats by Kurdish separatist guerrillas against tourists have deterred many holidaymakers. Further afield, a Foreign Of-

Jamaica has also hit bookings. The government warning came after demonstrations against increased fuel tax on the Caribbean island spread into violent conflict. Roadblocks were set up on several main highways, including the only link to the airport in the capital, Kingston. The first British Airways flight from the airport since last Sunday touched down at Gatwick yesterday.

As if this wasn't bad enough, day advising against travel to Richard Branson's latest enterprise, Virgin Sun, has cut flight-only fares to £99 return to a range of Mediterranean destinations in May. Other opera-transfers between the destinators are offering self-catering deals for as little as £129 for a week. Prices are likely to fall to 15kg. If last summer's patstill further in the remaining days before peak season schedules begin next Saturday.

Britain's biggest holiday company, Thomson, is trying to weed out customers hunting

last-minute bargains from bria, a villa specialist recently those who book higher-priced holidays from brochures. The company has begun charging late-bookers a £10 fee for coach Thomson is determined not tion and the resort, and reduced their baggage allowance by 5kg tern is repeated, the move will

last-minute holidaymakers. Upmarket operators have also been left with unsold holidays. Simply Tuscany & Um-

milk an extra £4m from 400,000

taken over by Thomson, has cut prices in half to fill flights and accommodation in Italy during the first half of May.

to lose in the battle for market share, even if this means slashing prices still further. It has warned its nearest rival, Airtours, that it will cut holiday prices if necessary.

Airtours, meanwhile is considering a bid for another big tour operator, First Choice. If

market leader.

than doubled some rail fares to

successful, the resulting com- the South-west for the week pany would become the UK's of the eclipse. Low-price tickets are being removed from ■ Virgin Trains is cashing in on sale, leaving Supersaver fares the total eclipse in south Devon as the cheapest available. Travand Cornwall on 11 August. ellers between Birmingham The rail company has more and Penzance will have to pay

Mandelson aide feared worst £1m homes go within hours

PETER MANDELSON'S closest By ANDREW GRICE aide suspected all along that he would have to resign from the Government if his secret £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson became public.

Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, former special adviser to Mr Man- not look good for him and which delson, believed that his boss would be hounded out of office by the media even had he not breached the rules on minis- solicitor, had drawn up the loan terial conduct.
In a television programme

tomorrow, Mr Wegg-Prosser says he knew there would be "a

Political Editor

lot of pressure" on Mr Mandelson "because the newspapers would put a certain construction on it which would would make it difficult for him to stay in government".

Mr Wegg-Prosser's father, a agreement between Mr Mandelson and Mr Robinson, the former paymaster general.

delson, tells the same programme that the former secretary of state for trade and industry was not focusing on the loan because he had been "outed" as a homosexual by Matthew Parris on television. "He was, in the period before

the [loan] revelation was made, worried about his private life," Mr Harris says. "He was focused on that. Actually, nobody cares about sexuality in politics by Donald Macintyre, whose biany more. They do - oddly Robert Harris, the author enough - care about money and lished by HarperCollins.

and a close friend of Mr Man- he followed the wrong ball." Politicians interviewed suggest Mr Mandelson will make a cabinet comeback. Lord Sawyer, the former Labour general secretary, says Mr Mandelson could "flower again" and be better off after two years "doing the nuts and bolts" of an MP's job.

The Real Peter Mandelson will be shown on Channel 4 at 8pm tomorrow. It is presented ography, Mandelson, is pubDUBLIN'S BOOMING economy reached a new high-water

mark when 16 new homes each with a £1m price tag were sold yesterday within hours of going on the market.

The buyers were mainly professional couples in their 30s, prompting acid comments about the Republic's emerging young "O'Ligarchy".

The houses are in the southern suburb of Carrickmines, many miles from central Dublin where a forest of construction cranes has

By Senan Molony

sprouted as evidence of Ireland's remarkable renaissance. The country is expected to have growth of 8 to 10 per cent in 1999. This is admittedly down from an unparalleled 12 per cent last year, but it builds on double-digit growth stretching back almost to the beginning of the decade.

House prices across the Irish capital doubled between 1994 and 1997, and, in some

semi in outer suburbia now begins at £130,000 – heady gains

from the days when artisan dwellings barely a mile from Molly Mallone's statue in the town centre sold for only £42,000. The financial muscles of the young people behind the

property boom stem from a surge in entrepreneurship. hugely improved education cases, have doubled again one-time national inferiority est incomes.

since. The price of a standard complex. These entrepreneurs are now making money hand over fist.

Most of the money comes from export earnings garnered from fashion, music, marketing and, overwhelmingly, information technology.

Dubliners stuck in old-style, fixed-salary jobs have not seen the same gains, and the result is an increasingly two-tier so-This, in turn, is the fruit of a ciety in which property prices have spiralled beyond the system and the shedding of a reach of those on more mod-

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Ghetto priest rallies Jamaican poor

THEY CALL him the Ghetto By PHIL DAVISON Priest, something of a male version of Mother Teresa, most often seen tramping Kingston's slums in white robe, blue sash and sandals. The fact that he has written a number-one reggae single and dozens of musicals, and writes a newspaper column, gives him considerably more street cred than your

average elergyman. Lung, a soft-spoken, whitehaired 59-year-old Jamaican, is at the forefront of protests against sweeping tax and price rises. Nine people died in this week's demonstrations. It was the worst violence in Jamaica in 20 years and sent shivers around the economically struggling Caribbean.

Father HoLung, Jamaicanborn but whose oriental features lead strangers to think he is a Buddhist priest, insists he wants to stay out of politics but he is already being compared by diplomats in the region to Haiti's Jean-Bertrand Aristide. the Catholic priest who swept to his nation's presidency at the

start of the decade. At an unprecedented protest meeting of Jamaican church leaders on Thursday, Father HoLung, founder of the Missionaries of the Poor group, launched a fiery attack on the government's tax and price increases and what he said was the abandonment of the poor in Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean. "There must be a full rollback of the price rises.

in Kingston

I am talking right now," he told several hundred people from various religious dominations in Kingston's Liguanea park "Now! Now! Now!" the crowd chanted as he held his microphone out towards them, pop singer-style.

"Don't you think they igov-Now, Father Richard Ho- ernment leaders] should maybe suffer with us? Don't you think they should take a cut in their wages?" he asked. "The Church is a sleeping giant. If the whole Church were to come together, we'd be 90 per cent of the country. We are not a violent people by nature. We don't want no burning of tyres or blocking of roads. What we want them to say is, 'We were wrong, we made a mistake' "

On Thursday night Prime Minister P J Patterson called him to say he could not personally annul the tax rises announced a week ago and which led to rioting and clashes with police on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Fourteen police-men were injured, six police stations attacked, 152 people arrested, scores of shops looted and dozens of buildings set ablaze. Life was back to normal in most areas yesterday but residents retained roadblocks in several ghetto areas to keep

Mr Patterson noted that a five-member "broad-based" crisis committee was reviewing



Participants at the Christian Unity for Peace and Justice rally in Kingston calling for an end to the violence in Jamaica

would consider its report on Monday. In the meantime, the opposition Jamaican Labour

tinue until the increases were dropped. He called an opposition march for tomorrow.

Party leader. Edward Seaga, whose supporters were widely inter-denominational church Father HoLung said the new atonement".

would keep up the pressure with a rally in Kingston on 1 May, described as a "day of national

would announce its findings believed to have encouraged the protest movement, Christian run by Father HoLung's young week's violence was worst, tomorrow. The government riots, said protests would con Unity for Peace and Justice. "brothers" showed the difficul- where roads are still blocked ty of their task. They look after several hundred mentally or physically disabled Jamaicans, as well as dying Aids patients. in areas of Kingston where this

where roads are still blocked and where local gang leaders still rule.

If there was ever any doubt about the continuing danger, Brother Savio, a young Indian

volunteer, recited a prayer in his car before we drove into the

After negotiating several roadblocks by driving on pavements or through rubble, he was eventually stymied by a steel girder. Leaders of the local "National Crew" gang showed no sign of removing it so we walked to one of Father HoLung's shelters.

At Thursday's gathering, in front of a large wooden cross draped with a tangled Jamaican flag to symbolise the "distress" of the nation, other clergymen went even further than Father HoLung, stirring their audience into a frenzy with fiery speeches interspersed with hymns and songs including "We shall overcome". It was the first time Jamaica's leading denominations had held a joint gathering.

"We can take no more. We are standing up for nonsense no longer," said a Catholic priest, Father Gregory Ramkissoon "The poor must come out of the trap of poverty. We must act."

Bishop Tommy Holdsworth of the Greater Grace Temple said: "The people are saying, We are hungry. We can take no more'. There is a genuine cry from the people for help."

The Rev Wynton William, a Baptist minister, said: "Our young people are very disappointed with the leadership of his country. They say our leadership has failed us. It is a shame to see our country has

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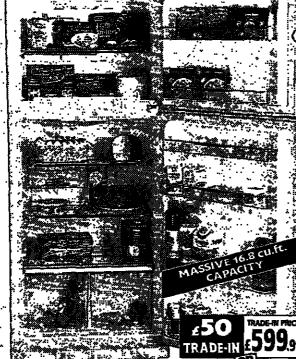
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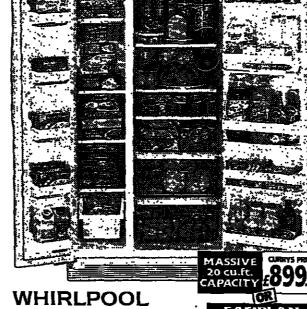
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Test cricketer raped woman in stadium

A CRICKETER in South Africa's BY JAMES ROBERTS World Cup squad was found guilty yesterday of rape.

Makhaya Ntini was convicted of raping a 22-year-old neigh-bour in the lavatory of a cricket ground in East London after offering her a lift home on 2 December The 21-year-old international plays in East London, on the east coast, for the Border provincial cricket side.

He has been dropped from the line-up for next month's World Cup tournament in Engbe selected for the national

(UCB) managing director, Ali Bacher, said in a statement in Johannesburg that the board was disappointed by Ntini's conviction. "We believe rape is a heinous crime and our previous and current comments on this matter must not be construed in any other light," Mr Bacher said. "We understand there are definite grounds for appeal... The UCB will continue to support Makhaya until the legal process has been comoleted. Sadly Makhaya Ntini will be withdrawn from the South African squad for the World

Mr Bacher said the Western province cricketer, Alan Dawson, would replace Ntini. Before



squad, Ntini played in Australia and England last year.

The United Cricket Board

The United Cricket Board said the rape charge against

Ntini did not affect his eligibility for the national squad. Ntini, a pace-bowler, sobbed as the verdict was handed

down in court. He was discovered as a raw 15-year-old in Mdingi, a black

township near King William's Town near East London. Raymond Booi, the Border Cricket Board official who first spotted Ntini, said he was dev-

astated. "My heart is broken because he was a model for South African youth," Mr Booi said. "He is a loyal, non-aggressive

The UCB has been subject to government criticism that the national team is too "white".

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Gandhi's power bid thwarted

THE BID for power by Sonia
Gandhi's Congress party in in Delhi India was blown off course yesterday when a number of allies formally declared they would not support her in parliament. In a meeting with the Pres-

ident, KR Narayanan, she was able to offer only 230-odd MPs, which is more than 40 short of an absolute majority. But instead of dismissing her at-tempts to take power, he urged her to keep trying. All parties continued to fight

shy of a general election, and the efforts to form a workable coalition were continuing.

If, however, no party is successful, a poll will be inevitable. The Italian-born widow of the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi would then discover whether the Congress party, which has held india in its thrall for almost all the 50 years of the country's independence, can regain power.

After Congress's failure bezame clear, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) once again staked its claim to office and deother chance to govern, Congress nor the BJP.

claiming the support of 270

As torch bearer of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, Mrs Gandhi had boldly declared just three days ago that her party had 272 MPs behind her. But several small parties who helped to bring down the BJP-led coalition have steadfastly refused to simply back Congress. The largest, the Mulayam Singh Yadav's Samajwadi party, was almost certainly seeking a seat-sharing pact in Uttar Pradesh, where

Congress is its main opponent. Smaller but equally significant are the Revolutionary Socialist Party and the Forward Bloc, which aimed to persuade Congress to adopt a radical leftwing economic agenda.

Congress held out on all the demands, asserting that the only acceptable solution would be it heading a minority government. Yesterday its bluff was called when a Samajwadi party delegation representing its 20 MPs told the president manded it should be given an they would vote for neither

احكدا م الاعل

Low deposit option

High school shooting: Authorities ignored death threats, say parents, as evidence of bullying emerges

Police 'knew boy killers made bombs'

POLICE AND school officials By ANDREW GUMBEL appear to have ignored repeated warnings about Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the Colorado high school killers, and may even have known that he pair were building pipe ombs in the basement of their louses, it emerged yesterday. The father of a senior at Columbine High School, speakig on condition of anonymity, tild the Rocky Mountain News tlat he had printed out pages from Eric Harris's Internet wibsite more than a year ago and passed them to police beause they contained explift threats to explode bombs an("kill and injure ... as many

of you as I can". he father said he was dismajed when police failed to takeaction and he complained agan a few weeks later. "We conthually called back," the fathe said. "They never called

The story fits into a pattern of complaints in which parents expressed alarm at threat and intimidation, by Harris in particular, without any apparent response.

Cricketer

ed woman

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Brooks Brown, an off-again, on-agail friend of the killers who survived the shootings because he was warned away at the last minute by Harris. said his family protested after a death threat against him appeared on the Internet site. Issiah Shoels, the African American student shot dead in the school library, also complaned about harassment although it was not clear if his tornentors were the killers or some other group at the

Since Tuesday's carnage, Jeffeson County police have consistently denied receiving any warnings. Frank DeAngelis. theprincipal of Columbine High, aid yesterday that he

in Littleton, Colorado

was unaware of Harris's website or of any complaints of specific serious threats.

Making his first public appearance since the shootings. a highly emotional Mr De-Angelis appealed to students and young people everywhere to raise any concerns they have, "so other people don't have to go through what we've been through". Close to tears as he faced the television cameras, Mr DeAngelis seemed psychologically unprepared to face any shortcomings in his administration, merely saying that Columbine High was a "great school" and would continue to be one thanks to the close-knit family feeling among

its students and faculty.

Several present and former students, however, have come forward in the past few days saying that all members of the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia, the introspective clique to which Harris and Klebold belonged, knew how to make pipe bombs. One claimed that the police were aware before the attack that these were being manufactured in the two boys' homes with materials readily available from hardware stores - carbon monoxide canisters, fuses, glass and nails. Gunpowder is highly restricted in Colorado, but is freely available from powerful fireworks on sale across the state line in

Neighbours of Harris have said they heard the sounds of bottles being smashed at his home last weekend, but never suspected they were to be used as shrapnel stuck on to the pair's home-made explosives. We thought it was a school project or something," one neighbour said.

It is not known where the student's parents or older brother were at the time.

More details also emerged yesterday of the weaponry used in the attack, which included a modified version of a notorious semi-automatic handgun, the TEC-9, much used by street gangs and featured in the movie Robocop. The pair also carried a 9mm semi-automatic carbine, a pump-action shotgun and a sawn-off double-barrelled hunting gun.

According to local media reports, the two semiautomatics were purchased legally from a licensed Colorado gun-dealer, although it seems that Harris and Klebold acquired them through an intermediary because they were too young to buy the weapons

According to one teenager in Littleton, arranging to buy such weaponry is not difficult. "I have a friend of a friend who could get me a 50-calibre rifle for \$200, or a fully automatic AR15 with bullets with exploding tips - which is totally ille-- for three or four hundred," said the teenager, Joe Costello, who attended a similar Littleton high school for a year and a half before ducking out because of teasing and bullying from the "jocks" - the same group that Harris and Klebold complained about.

Interviews with similar teenagers, who are marginalised in the conservative suburban atmosphere of Littleton, suggested that bullying by jocks is a serious problem. Mr Costello said he had been pushed and beaten repeatedly and had rocks thrown at him, but the school authorities appeared uninterested in protecting him or punishing the well turned out, sporty jocks.



Mourners at a candlelight vigil in Denver for victims of Tuesday's Columbine High School massacre

China torture ordeal claim

By TERESA POOLE in Peking

THE POLICE detained "Yusuf" last year in Urumqi, the capital of China's restive Muslim Xinjiang province, on suspi-cion that he had links with exiled ethnic Uighur nationalist organisations.

According to his account, there was an underground area below the city's Public Security Bureau where the torture took place. "I was given electric shocks with electric batons. The shocks were applied all over my body, including in my mouth and on my penis, which caused intense pain ...

"While tortured I was made to wear a kind of metal helmet which came down over [my] eyes. The interrogators used this helmet to prevent fatalities, as some prisoners cannot bear the pain of torture and try to kill themselves by bashing their heads against the walls," he reported to Amnesty International, which this week published a detailed report alleging "gross and systematic" human rights violations in Xinjiang "which until now have gone virtually unnoticed by the international community".

The 92-page report details widespread torture, extrajudicial killings and other human rights abuses. Some male prisoners reported having horse hair or wires with spikes inserted into their penises.

Ever since the Communist victory in 1949, there have been disparate separatist movements in Xinjiang, angry at the Han Chinese dominion and the exploitation of the region's natural resources for Peking's benefit. A growing number of anti-Han riots, bombings and assassinations have taken place in Xinjiang during the Nineties.

According to Amnesty, Peking's response has been indiscriminate repression. 'Yusuf" was one of the relatively lucky ones: he was freed after a few weeks when his faml ily paid police £150.

There are over 30 wars being fought in the

world. In many, children as young as seven are being used as soldiers. In some cases they're nothing but cannon fodder. It's almost unthinkable - yet today, an estimated 300,000 children are fighting in conflicts around the world. Children who can be maimed, brutalised and slaughtered in adults' wars.

This is an appalling situation and Save the Children believes it must change. We want to change international law to ban the use of children under 18 in armed conflicts. And we never forget that child soldiers are children.

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Your donation can help Save the Children's work to continue. And change the futures not only of child soldiers but other children whose lives have been shattered by violence, poverty and deprivation in places like Liberia, Kosovo and many other countries worldwide. Please remember these children this week, by donating whatever you can afford, Thank you.

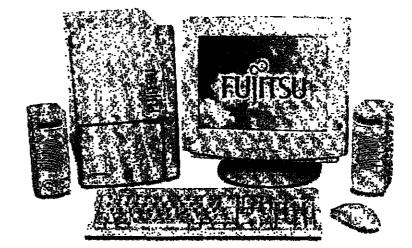
pays for a month's care for a former child soldier in a rehabilitation centre in Liberia can help a foster family in Bosnia care for two children for a month

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Unita attacks launch new Angolan war

AT 3AM ON 18 December, guer- BY ANNA RICHARDSON rillas of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) attacked the village of Nunda in Huambo Province, central Angola They ran through the village, looting and shooting. Woken from their sleep the villagers scrambled to escape into the dense undergrowth. Three men, one woman and a boy were killed. The woman was Joao Samba's wife,

"When we heard the shooting we just had time to grab the children and run for it," Joao, 34, a carpenter, said. "I took the two elder ones and my wife tied the baby on her back. The bullet hit her in the back of the head and came out of her forehead. She fell on her face, dead. but the baby was unhurt."

Joao relates this story standing barefoot in a bombed-out factory on the outskirts of government-controlled Huambo city. The factory is home to more than 7,000 newly displaced people who, like Joao, Dos Santos finally responded to have been forced, emptyhanded, from their homes by newly acquired MiG fighter the resumption of Angola's 30- planes to bombard Unita's year civil war. Huambo holds strongholds in Bailundo and

in Luanda

120,000 newly arrived refugees. In the whole of Angola, more than 780,000 have been registered in the last year. They join the 1.3 million who remain displaced after the last bout of fighting, from 1992 to 1994. Angola's slide back towards

war began in April 1998, as the country was destabilised by a spate of vicious attacks on civilian targets - villages and road traffic. Many survivors identified their assailants as Unita. But some government police and soldiers mounted copy-cat attacks, blaming the raids on Unita With hindsight it appears this destabilisation was conceived by Unita's machiavellian leader, Jonas Savimbi, as a means of provoking the government into a

fully fledged offensive. The war officially began in the first week of December. when President Jose Eduardo this provocation by sending his

·Andulo, 40 miles to the north of Huambo. The bombardment was carefully timed to coincide with the National Congress of the ruling MPLA party, of which Mr Dos Santos is also president. Grossly underestimating Unita's military strength, he

confidently expected to annihilate the rebels while reinforcing his position within the party and his 20-year-long presidency. "The government anticipated a quick, tidy clean-up when they went into Andulo and Bailundo," said a senior diplomat in the capital, Luanda. "In fact, they got a serious, bloody spanking. Once again Mr Savimbi had

fooled the world. Both the Angolan government and the United Nations Mission charged with overseeing the implementation of the 1994 peace accords knew that Unita had not complied fully with its commitments to disarm and demobilise its forces. But no one had gauged the true extent to which Mr Savimbi had used the lull provided by the four-year peace process to retrain and re-

equip his forces.



Ukrainian tanks rolled towards Bailundo and Andulo in December, they came face to face with identical tanks in the hands of Unita.

One UN official based in Luanda said: "Government figures tell of running into their Unita counterparts while on shopping trips to Eastern European arms fairs. At this rate the

Within a few weeks of the resumption of fighting proper, Unita had taken control of almost the whole of Angola's countryside, driving the government, and most of the population, back into a handful of cities. The achievements of four years of relative peace have been reversed in a few

months. The country is once

again partitioned, only this time

nobody, not even the UN or aid agencies, has access to the Unita side of the lines.

Troops demobilised by the UN are being forcibly conscripted back into each army. Roads cleared of mines have been planted with new mines.

Angola's first war was to win independence from Portugal. The second, from 1975 to 1991,

War. The third was because Mr Savimbi refused to accept defeat in the country's first and only democratic presidential elections. But what is this one for?

We don't know why they are

fighting again," Joao Samba "We are just ordinary people, trying to stay alive."

The displaced in Huambo are being kept alive only by

the World Food Programma Sixty per cent of the childrenad mitted to Huambo's central inspital have severe malnutrilion. A UN official offers hisown

bleak explanation of this litest war: "There is no doubt shout it," he says. "This time numi the war is simply a battle it see which of the two leaders can steal the most, the fastest, and

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Battling with evil spirits in Budapest

WEEK IN THE LIFE ZOLTAN SOLYOMFI-NAGY, HUNGARIAN SHAMAN

A SHAMAN, in the ancient languages of the nomadic tribes of Siberia and inner Asia, means "the one who knows": how to contact the spirit world, how to heal sicknesses. both spiritual and physical, and how to live in tune with nature.

A little over a thousand years ago, before their arrival in Europe and conversion to Christianity, the Hungar ans too were an Asian nomadic people, who followed the old shamanic ways.

In a region in transition between communism and capitalism, where many are dazed and confused by the rapid pace of change, a return to Hungary's original Asian roots is attractive for many. Shamans such as Zoltan Solyomfi-Nagy are reviving those lost traditions.

Budapest-born Solyomfi-Nagy, 36, studied shamanism with native Americans on reservations in South Dakota and Nebraska. He says: Every morning I start the day with a simple ceremony that helps me clear my mind, heart and body. I light sweetgrass, and call on my spirit helpers, and sing a simple song. I light a smoke circle, which helps protect me, and I try to keep the essence of the smoke circle around me all day, as a

DURING THE week, Solyomfi-Nagy works part-time as a teacher of art and physical education. Weekday mornings are reserved for shamanistic practice and rituals, sometimes involving healing.

With its emphasis on spirituality, shamanic healing is particularly helpful for treating depression, says Zoltan Solyomfi-Nagy. "Depression is the most important healing work. Depression means somebody's soul is not whole. Shamanistic work can bring back the parts of the soul, so that it becomes whole again, and the person's life improves. He can find the answer to the problems of his life and get on a better life path. Such things are not a miracle, they are very simple, very old." Solyomfi-Nagy radiates the

kind of inner peace that is rarely encountered in a mod-. ern urban society. "A shaman is a priest, a healer and leader of ceremonies," he says, "a keeper of wisdom who knows the old songs and dances. Shamanic culture respects all kinds of life, and says that everything has a life, trees. grass, the sun, the moon, light, rivers, and of course human beings. Everything also exists



Zoltan Solyomfi-Nagy, 'keeper of wisdom' Jim Lowney

in a parallel spirit world, and a shaman can contact that world through his spirit helper. Everyone has a spirit helper; its equivalent in Christianity is a guardian angel."

AT WEEKENDS Solyomfi-Nagy can devote more time to this creed. As interest spreads in shamanism, he organises weekend retreats in the Pilis mountains, north-west of Budapest. One of the mountains has been recognised by the Dalai Lama as one of the world's holy places. The highlight of the week-

end is the "sweat lodge" ceremony, when the novitiates build a makeshift sauna from branches, and cover it with blankets and animal furs, while the ceremony leader places hot stones inside and sprays water on them. "The sweat lodge ceremony has existed for thousands of years. Herodotus records that many nations, such as the Scythians, hold the same ceremony. Everyone sits together, praying and singing. It is a purification ceremony, for physical, mental and psychic cleanliness. It's my favourite ceremony, when you feel that everybody becomes one," says Solvomfi-Nagy.

MANY SHAMANISTIC rituals involve entering a trance-like state, similar to that experienced by Sufi Muslims through repetition and chanting, they experience a feeling of "oneness" with God and the universe. For shamans, this is

a spirit journey when they travel to the other world, using tools such as drums, rattles and smoke to ease their passage. "The drum is my spirithorse, and its voice helps me enter the other reality. I don't use drugs or plants, only the drum's voice. The rattle helps me call my spirit helper, and the smoke, from sweetgrass, pine, juniper, cedar and sage, keeps me from spiritual danger, if there are unfriendly spirits. The most important things happen in what we call 'non-ordinary reality'."

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A THOUSAND years of Christianity, and 40 of Communism all but wiped out most traces of shamanism in Hungary. But the country's folk tales and folk songs still contain shamanistic themes and motifs. Even now, in villages, elderly women forecast the future by filling a sieve with stones, shaking it and analysing the patterns. The Hungarian word for God is 'Isten', but that is not a Christian term - it originally meant 'the ancient one'. Today more and more people are returning to the old knowledge. The old messages become alive again, that we are all related. and that all life is a different aspect of one creature.
"The spiritual life is there for

everybody, and we are all children of the earth. But I don't want to wave a big flag that I and Hasidic Jews, when, am a shaman and tell people to follow the shamanic way. Everyone who is interested can find it for themselves."

ADAM LE BOR

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Mitsubishi closure costs 240 jobs THE JAPANESE electronics giant Mitsubishi dealt a fresh

blow to Scotland yesterday by announcing the closure of its video recorder manufacturing plant in Livingston with the

Mitsubishi blamed the shutdown on severe overcapacity in the European video market. The closure is part of a world-wide rationalisation programme involving 14,500 job cuts, and follows Mitsubishi's decision earlier this year to shut its Apricot computer plant in Glenrothes with the loss

Bank chief slates bonds tax



vith enl

Budapest

Bank of England yesterday launched a stinging attack on EU proposals to impose a withholding tax on bonds. David Clementi (pictured), speaking at The Economist's UK Financial Services Conference, said

that if the tax was imposed "there is a very real danger that legitimate business would relocate. not just outside London

but outside the EU, thus further undermining any economic rationale for the proposal". He added: "The Bank continues to believe that it is important to avoid any scheme that would damage EU financial markets."

Kingfisher buys North-east chain Kingfisher has bought Dickens, a home and garden retail chain based in the North-east, through its French-based DIY subsidiary Castorama.

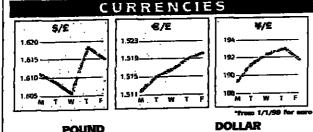
Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but Kingfisher said Dickens had net assets of £27m. Dickens' stores in Newcastle, Washington, Darlington and Shiremoor, which have a total of 40,000 square metres of retailing space, are to be converted to its B&Q Warehouse

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Europe and US head for clash over policy for euro

EUROPEAN FINANCE minis- BY DIANE COYLE ters and the US administration are poised for a clash over sluggish growth in Europe and the weakness of the euro.

US officials are expected to Group of Seven ministers and central bankers to urge their boost growth and to share with the US the burden of soaking up imports from Asia. The weak in the euro area. euro has become a symbol in the US of European economic

The International Monetary Fund added its pressure yesterday, urging the European

Economics Editor

Central Bank to be more open about its policies and to respond to low inflation. Although praisuse Monday's meeting of ing the ECB's "sensible and pragmatic" approach to monetary policy, the IMF agreed European counterparts to that the weakness of the euro since its 1 January launch

> "It was particularly important at the early stages of the ECB, in view of uncertainties for the outlook in the euro area and the global economy, that the public understand and have

reflected doubts about growth

framework," the IMF said.

The new currency remains close to its low against the US dollar, hovering just above \$1.06 yesterday. It has lost about 10 per cent of its value against the dollar since the new year. Trading was quiet yesterday ahead of Monday's G7 meeting. Finance ministers arrive in Washington tomorrow in the wake of

the weekend Nato summit. Financial market analysts predict that the euro will remain weak until economic funshow signs of improvement.

said: "The Americans might put on some pressure, but the currency is just a reflection of economic conditions." Slow growth

in Europe compared to faster US growth would keep the euro weak for a few months, he said. The Balkan war also weighs on the euro, analysts said. However, the suspicion in the US is that Europe is deliber-

ately practising towards its new currency the policy of benign neglect that has served the dollar and US exporters so well. The issue has become sensitive because of the Asian Philippe d'Arvisenet, chief crisis and subsequent explosion

tionist sentiment among US

New figures for the UK economy yesterday confirmed that growth remained sluggish in the first quarter of this year. However, the 0.1 per cent rise in GDP in January to March, to a level 0.7 per cent higher than a year earlier, is widely expected to mark the low point of

the business cycle. According to preliminary figures from the Office for National Statistics, manufacturing output fell during the quarter, but more slowly than in the final quarter of 1998. The figures for

first quarter are likely to show a fall of around half the fourth quarter's 1.3 per cent decline.

But if the worst is over for manufacturing, growth in services slowed to its lowest since the trough of the recession in mid-1992. Services output rose 0.4 per cent in the first quarter, taking the year-on-year growth down to 2.3 per cent from 2.7 per

cent in the fourth quarter. Since mid-1992, services output has climbed by 26.7 per cent, compared to a rise of about 8 per cent for manufacturing output.

Outlook, page 19



Greycoat executives (from left) Peter Thornton, Martin Poole and Chris Strickland

MAM talks to Greycoat team

THE MANAGEMENT of Greycoat is in talks with Mercury Asset Management (MAM) about a possible buyout of the central London property devel-

MAM, which has a stake in Greycoat's most famous property Tower 42 in the City (formerly known as the Nat West Tower), is expected to make a bid that will see the management retained and offered a share in the equity.

said: "Although a number of people were prepared to offer management participation, they [Greycoat] are now on the point of doing a deal with a particular By Anna Minton

deal means that management will have participation in the eq-

sale last week following a hostile £218m bid by Delancey

A source close to the deal

Greycoat put itself up for certain parties going to tender

Estates, the property group run by Jamie Ritblat, son of British Land's John Ritblat. The financier George Soros controls nearly 60 per cent of Delancey. Delancey's all-paper bid was

rejected as "derisory" by Greycoat. Analysts say it is looking for a bid of up to £300m for the company, which last week reported a net asset value of 283p per share. The sale process institution. The structure of the is being arranged by NM Roth-

schild, with tenders invited by 19

Peter Thornton, the chief executive of Greycoat, said: "It became clear very early on that wanted the possibility of retaining some or all of management. Of course we'd prefer someone to retain management and save our jobs, but the highest cash bid will win the day." Analysts and industry ob-

servers said that the deal with MAM, reported in property magazine Estates Gazette, seemed logical and beneficial to both sides.

Ian Henderson, chief executive of Land Securities, one of the companies tipped to enter

surprise me because a number of funds are looking for more direct exposure to property. It's got quite a lot of logic to it."

A property director with a leading life fund said the deal reflected a structural change in property investment in the UK. with fund management houses increasingly looking to absorb property companies into their "We've seen it with Hermes

taking over Argent and more recently with Pricoa and Arlington, and there'll be more companies seeking to sell themselves to life assurers. It means the listed property sector will

MediaOne bid shakes phones sector

THE UK telecoms industry was braced for a further huge shakeup yesterday with both the mo-bile operator One2One and the cable company Telewest set to be put up for sale if AT&T's surprise \$58bn bid for MediaOne

A takeover would trigger the disposal of both the 50 per cent stake in One2One held by MediaOne and the controlling 51 per cent stake in Telewest that

AT&T would emerge with. Speculation that both Telewest and One2One would be sold was fuelled by AT&T's announcement that it planned \$18bn-\$20bn of asset disposals once the takeover goes through. A spokeswoman said: "We will be divesting non-strategic assets and clearly the main motivation for buying MediaOne was to expand our footprint in the US."

AT&T would not detail which the bidding, said: "It doesn't assets would be sold off but both the One2One and Telewest stakes are regarded as nonstrategic. In addition to this, regulatory considerations and AT&T's existing joint venture agreements would force disposals of the two businesses.

AT&T has already forged a \$10bn global alliance with BT which includes a non-compete clause. Since both Telewest, one of the UK's three main cable operators, and One2One are competitors to BT and its mobile joint venture Cellnet, this makes disposals inevitable.

Telewest shares soared 8 per 282.5p as the market sensed that the company was now in

play and likely to merge or be taken over. Other telecom stocks rose in its slipstream with Cable & Wireless, which owns the other half of One2One, gaining 27p to 842p. Telewest, which is valued at

£5.6bn, is already 21 per centowned by AT&T through its earlier acquisition of TCL If the MediaOne bid succeeds it will inherit a further 29.9 per cent of Telewest Normally companies are forced to make a full bid once their shareholding in another company rises above 30 per cent. It was unclear last night whether this would force AT&T to make a bid. But analysts speculated that a more likely scenario was a three-way merger between Telewest and the two other big UK cable operators, Cable & Wireless Communica tions and NTL.

To complicate matters further, CWC is in discussions with Telewest about an asset swap whereby Telewest would take over CWC's residential customers, paying CWC in shares, and CWC would take on Telewest's business customers

The AT&T bid for MediaOne tops an agreed \$48bn offer from the US cable giant Comcast. That deal had already prompted Cable & Wireless and MediaOne to announce the disposal of One2One, either through a trade sale or flotation which cent yesterday, rising 20.5p to could raise anywhere between £6bn and £9bn.

Outlook, page 19

door open to a merger

climbed almost 3 per cent yesterday after its chairman indicated the group was open to a merger with a rival. Speaking at a tense annual

meeting, Andrew Buxton, the outgoing chairman, said: "If something arose that was consistent with Barclays' own group strategy and good for shareholder value, of course we would consider it." However, he declined to comment directly on recent speculation about a tieup between Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland. Barclays' shares rose 54p to

close at 1,933p, with traders also

Shares in Barclays Bank By LEA PATERSON

"Our business has performed well in the first quarter," Mr Buxton told shareholders.

step of asking Peter Jarvis,

cheered by a bullish statement. Despite the upbeat tone of the Separate remarks by Peter

statement, the Barclays chairman faced some hostile questioning. There was particular concern about the size of the compensation package paid to Martin Taylor, who unexpectedly resigned as Barclays' chief executive at the end of last year. Mr Buxton took the unusual

chairman of Barclays' remuneration committee, to give

shareholders a short presentation explaining Mr Taylor's payout. Mr Jarvis said the package reflected "contractual obligations as well as the success of the business under Martin".

Ellwood, chief executive of Lloyds TSB, fanned merger speculation in the sector. Mr Ellwood, speaking at The Economist's UK Financial Ser-

vices conference, said: "Obviously we would like to buy in the UK, but a really big deal would go against competition rules. Europe is on our doorstep and we are looking pretty hard. We are also looking in the US."

Barclays' chairman leaves | Allied Carpets MD quits after grim trading figures

gling carpet retailer, lurched Associate City Editor further into crisis yesterday when its managing director resigned following another grim trading statement.

Ray Nethercott is stepping down with immediate effect after surviving a management counts caused by problems in the way sales were recorded.

Shares in Allied Carpets fell 3p to 36.5p. Analysts said it was left "rudderless" with just two executive directors, including an acting finance director. Allied Carpets' chairman,

purge last year, when auditors nation brings the opportunity for found a black hole in the ac- a fresh start for the company

ALLIED CARPETS, the strug- BY NIGEL COPE

Julian Lee, said he and non-executive director Mark Burgess would now spend more time at the company supporting the remaining two executive directors. Mr Lee said: "Ray's resig-

and we will announce a sucsor as soon as practicable." Mr Nethercott is likely to eligible for compensation.

Allied Carpets said trading remained "challenging". In 16 weeks to 16 April like for-like sales were 6 per cent down on the period last year. This is thought to be in line with the carpet market but a poorer performance than rival Carpetright.

The latest crisis at Allied Carpets could revive bid speculation after the group ended takeover talks last year. However, there may be few bidders.

Carpetright, which made an indicative offer of 67p per share before pulling out due to regulatory concerns, is not thought interested. The company feels it was messed about by Allied over the deal to buy 29 of its stores. The other bidder last year was venture capital group

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES closed slightly higher yesterday as takeover rumours in the banking and telecom sectors offset Wall Street's weak opening.

The FTSE-100 finished 14.4 higher at 6428.0, on low volume of less than a 1bn shares. A number of market players preferred to sit on the sidelines after Thursday's large gain. Profit-taking took the FTSE-250 7.8 lower to close at 5784.5. The Small Cap ended 13.9 higher at 2522.2, breaking its trading and closing records for Market Report, page 19

NEW YORK SHARES fell slightly on profittaking after the DJIA and

Nasdaq hit new highs on Thursday. AT&T fell nearly 10 per cent on worries about the impact of the potential acquisition of MediaOne. In early trading the Dow was down 46,39 at 10,680.79 while the hitech Nasdaq was off 3.97 at 1.337,64. Mobil fell almost 2 per cent after a fall in first quarter earnings to 58 cents a share. Exxon, its prospective merger partner, was down 1.6 per cent.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI INDEX closed 1.54 per cent higher at 16,923, boosted by gains in hi-tech issues following a jump in the technology-heavy Nasdaq index in the US overnight. Speculation that the Japanese

government may announce extra economic steps to kick-start the economy also helped market sentiment, traders said. "The whole market was pulled up

as the fate of Tokyo high-techs is closely tied to overall market performance." said Akihiro Naemura, a strategist at Okasan Securities.

HONG KONG STOCKS HAD a volatile day's

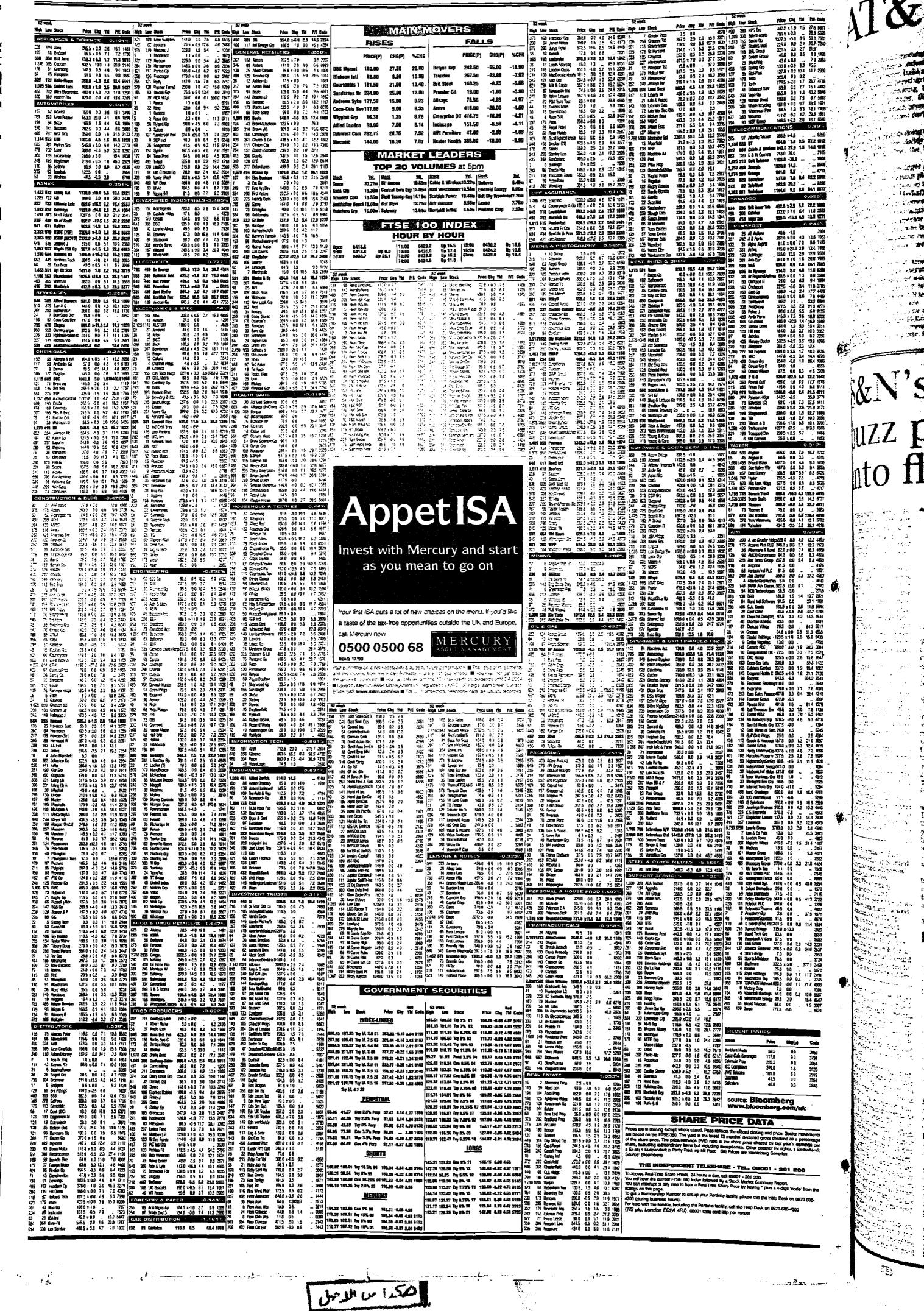
trading, ending modestly lower after earlier hitting their highest level in 18 months. The Hang Seng index peaked in morning trade at 13,364.42 - its highest level since October 1997 – before falling back to close down 28.24 points at

HSBC Holdings was among the most actively-trade stocks, setting a new record high of HK\$290 before falling back to close at \$283.

FRANKFURT

BLUE CHIPS surrendered ground in later trade on a weak opening on Wall Street, with the Xetra DAX index ending down 0.74 per cent at 5,187.89 points. The floor-traded DAX finished off 0.45 per cent at 5,195.42 points.

Deutsche Bank shares rose 2 per cent after forecasting a marked earnings increase at its investment banking division as the EU cleared its merger with Banker's Trust. Deutsche Telekom ended 0.2 per cent higher following days of hefty losses.



AT&T might untangle the cable knot

مكذا من الاحل

THERE'S NEVER a dull moment in the telecommunications industry. No sooner have Telecom Italia and Deustche Telekom lumbered up the aisle intent on redrawing the telecoms map of Europe, than along comes a deal which promises to carve up a significant part of the UK market too.

This time the elephants doing the dancing are AT&T, the daddy of them all, and MediaOne, the US cable operator.

Such is the frenzy of merger activity in the US as the various play-ers jockey for pole position in the information age, that MediaOne was already betrothed to Comcast. Now freed from the constraints of vesteryear, AT&T is desperate to recreate the empire that was broken up when the local phone companies, the Baby Bells, were forcibly spun off.

It has already acquired America's second largest cable operator. TCL Snapping up MediaOne would make AT&T a major player in both the local and long-distance US telephone markets. There are, of course, a few loose ends to tie up. First, it needs to arrange \$30bn of debt financing. Even for a company like AT&T that is a big bite, fol-



OUTLOOK

lowing so soon after the \$60bn TCI deal. Then it needs regulatory

And then, finally, there is the matter of the two transatlantic orphans that AT&T will inherit as part of the deal - a 50 per cent stake in One2One, and a controlling 51 per cent stake in Telewest. Both fit the category of non-strategic assets. Furthermore, both have to be disposed of anyway because of the noncompete agreement that AT&T has with BT - something, incidentally. Euro weakling which the regulators might care to cast an eye over while they are at it.

One2One was already on the block following the decision by Cable & Wireless, the owner of the other 50 per cent, to become Cable but not Wireless. As for Telewest, the incestuous nature of the UK cable industry and the desperate need of the various players to make a viable whole out of the loss-making parts, means it was never likely to remain in its present form.

The welter of overlapping cross shareholdings make the UK cable market a tricky one to keep up with. C&W also owns a 53 per cent stake in Cable & Wireless Communications, itself the product of a four-way merger. Comcast (remember that one) meanwhile owns a stake in NTL, the other player of any size on the UK cable scene.

A consolidation of the three big cable players into one ought not to make the regulators lose any sleep since they do not compete with one another anyway. What's more, it would make everyone else's life easier. The AT&T bid may just be the catalyst the industry needs.

HOISTED BY their own petard. When the euro was launched, European finance ministers insisted

under which the D-Mark and the franc were quoted in terms of the amount of each currency a dollar would buy, and instead have the euro denominated the other way round - in terms of the number of dollars each euro bought.

The difference might seem an unimportant one, but for the pompously minded men of Europe. it has (or rather had) a certain symbolic significance. Quoted against the dollar in this way, the euro is worth more than one, and therefore might be seen to denote superiority. Furthermore, because the euro

was expected rapidly to establish reserve currency status, and strengthen against the dollar this method of quotation would more easily illustrate rising value and therefore increased superiority. Embarrassingly, it hasn't worked out that way. The euro has been sinking ever since it was launched. The way things are going, it won't be long before parity is reached. Sacre bleu!

However, as luck would have it, a weak euro is just what the doctor might have ordered for near recessionary Europe. The euro's weakness may be a tad embarrassing for supporters of the new currency, but while it makes Europe's exports cheaper and imports more expensive, nobody's

complaining too much.

Nobody that is, except the Americans, and to a lesser extent, Britain, also labouring under the burden of a strong currency and growing trade deficit. The US plans to give it to the Europeans with both barrels at next week's meeting of the IMF and World Bank in Washington. The US, with its Everest of a trade deficit, seems to be shouldering the entire burden of the world's economic ills right now, or that's what its policy makers think, anyway, and it wants Europe to take

some share of the strain

Unfortunately, it is hard to see how this can occur; there seem to be no policy tools left open to the Europeans. Interest rates have already been cut to a lower level than anyone dreamed possible, while with most euro-zone countries beginning to knock up against budget deficit ceilings, there isn't a great deal of scope for tax cutting either. Deregulation of labour, capital and industrial markets will eventually help stimulate demand, but the full benefit of these measures are

through. For all these reasons, the euro is likely to remain a weak currency for some while vet.

Narrow miss

THE BRITISH economy expanded by less in the first quarter of this ar than any other quarter since the tail-end of the last recession. Yet yesterday's figures were greeted with remarkable cheer. The reason is one of relief; the vast majority of economists think the slowdown in January to March is as bad as it is going to get. We have, they think, achieved the proverbial soft landing.

Better still, the figures indicated that the pace of decline in manufacturing has eased. Unlike other areas of the economy, manufacturers have indeed suffered a recession - technically defined as two successive quarters of falling output - but they now appear to be pulling out of it despite the strong pound. Services output grew even more slowly in the first quarter than in the final months of 1998. But economists draw comfort from all sorts of anecdotal evipicking up again.

This evidence ranges from the informal, the reappearance in London's restaurant and shop windows of help-wanted notices, to the more formal - pick-ups in confidence in the biggest business surveys. The housing market has certainly perked up, as net lending and

ouse price figures show. The biggest remaining worry is how much the strong exchange rate could yet damage exports. It is still just about possible that this could still tip the whole economy into recession. Furthermore, revisions of preliminary data are frequent and large and it might be unwise to put too much faith in yesterday's

But even assuming the worst, it is hard to see the UK economy suffering more than two or three quarters of marginally negative growth. Compared to the scale of boom and bust Britain experienced in the 1980s and early 1990s, this is quite an achievement on the part of policy-makers. It even feels a little bit too good to be true - as if to declare a soft landing is tempting fate. The formal declaration will have to wait until we can be absolutely sure.

S&N's holiday buzz puts fizz into flat FTSE

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, the nation's biggest brewer, was back in demand yesterday after a series of meetings with analysts sparked talk of a sell-off of its Center Parcs holiday busi-

S&N surged 29p to 761.5p as the finance director, Derek Milkinson, toured the City's croking houses to outline the company's near-term strategy and to rein in some of the more optimistic earnings forecasts. Mr Wilkinson is thought to have hinted at some "developments" at Center Parcs. S&N's underperforming holiday camps operation.

Pontin's in the UK and has operations in Holland, France and Belgium, suffered a slump in reservations a few years back as tourists were put off by its staid image. Since then, it has undergone massive restyling and it appeared to be on the up.

However recent trading is believed to have been poor and Mr Wilkinson was said to have mentioned Center Parcs' disappointing performance as a reason to reduce full-year forecasts. The finance director's caution fuelled speculation that S&N was lining up a sale of the duced about £60m in profits on

SEAL ICE, a maker of ice cubes, yesterday appointed a liquidator and withdrew from the junior Ofex market. The company. which produced up to 3,000kg of ice per hour at its Peterborough plant, bowed out unchanged at 112.5p.

Seal Ice had a market value of over £1.6m and sales of £390,000. It said in March that its search for a backer had failed and could no longer continue to trade due to its financial troubles.

turnover of over £300m. Many experts believe Center Parcs does not fit with S&N's brewing operations but could be a target for a package holiday op-erator wishing to boost its European presence. A change of management could be in

The Center Parcs saga overshadowed Mr Wilkinson's other mission: to tell brokers to reduce their forecasts. He is thought to have warned analysts of tough trading conditions in the beer market. The comments had an immediate effect; WestLB Panmure slashed their 1999 forecast by £10m to £409m. Last year S&N posted £422m.

The FTSE 100 had an off day, rising just 14.4 points to 6,428.0p on low turnover of 929 million. A weak opening on Wall Street did not help and many dealers preferred to book in some profits for the weekend.

Most of the blue-chip excitement was in the cable sector as the repercussions of the AT&T hostile bid for US rival





GUERRERA

MediaOne spread through the London market. Telewest Communications, where Merose 20.75p to 282.75p - the biggest riser among blue-chips.

If AT&T succeeds in buying MediaOne it will end up with a 51 per cent holding in Telewest. which will almost certainly be regulatory fears. The UK market leader, Cable & Wireless Communications, already in talks with Telewest on the pooling of their domestic operations, is a potential buyer. CWC rose 22p to 713p on hopes it could go for a £16bn merger.

Cable & Wireless was also wanted, rising 27p to 842p. Traders shrugged aside fears that the AT&T bid could scupper the sale of the mobile phone business One2One, co-owned with MediaOne, and focused on speculation that it could merge with France Telecom.

Colt Telecom missed out on the fun, plunging 36p to 1,102p on profit taking. Reed International suffered the same fate and closed 17p down at 522p. Bid talk returned to swirl around Barclays. The leader-

SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence **ARRIVÄ** 460 420 -320 AMJ JASOND J FMA

less bank rose 54p to 1,933p after the outgoing chairman, Andrew Buxton, said that it was open to merger talks. Royal Bank of Scotland, its most likely partner, was unruffled, closing 1p up at 1,411p.

British Energy powered 17.5p ahead to 550.5p amid talk of a £400m share buyback. The company could be spurred to return the cash after failing to buy one of the power stations put up for sale by PowerGen.

Asda and Kingfisher survived - almost unscathed news of a Stock Exchange probe into share dealings before the announcement of their

merger. The supermarket slid 1.5p to 191.5p, while the owner of B&Q was 12.5p higher at 822p. The rumour of a strike by Wal-Mart for Safeway grew stronger as it emerged that Tony Blair had met with an executive of the US giant. The UK group closed 14.25p up at 279p.

The mid-cap was in indecisive mode, ending 7.8 points lower at 5,784.5. The small cap bucked the trend and finished ahead, closing 13.9 higher at 2,532.2 and breaking its 1999 trading and closing records in the process.

Arriva, the transport group, was one of the worst-perform-20p lower to 415p after warning of a tough bus market.

Takeover rumours enlivened the rest of the undercard. United Assurance, the underperforming life insurer, rose 17.5p sold to fund the deal and allay to 446.5p on talk of a strike from a rival or a major bank, possibly Lloyds. Hickson, a long-suffering chemical group, was also in demand. It closed 8p higher at 58.5p as old bid talks resurfaced. The activist fund manager PDFM owns a large stake and could be looking for a

Another company in the PDFM stable. Cornwell Parker, rose on talk that a bid was near. The reclining chair maker,

SHARES IN Arsenal Football Club soared 10.000p to 210,000p yesterday after the Ofex-traded company announced a new three-year sponsorship deal with the

computer group Sega. The contract allows Sega to publicise Dreamcast, its new video games console, on the Gunners' home and away shirts from next season. The deal, worth about £12m, is thought to be the largest-ever sponsorship for a UK football club.

known to have received an approach, rose 13.5p to 112p. The Coke bottler. Coca-Cola Beverages, fizzed 9p higher to 117p on evidence of a buoyant market for the sticky stuff. Storehouse, the BhS and Mothercare retailer, flew 7p higher to 146p as speculative buyers moved in.

Profit warnings were the order of the day among the minnows. The convenience store operator, Dawn Til Dusk, sunk 21.5p lower to 75p after announcing the closure of its "Liquorzones" shops and predicting profits "significantly below expectations.

The mattress maker Relyon Group sunk 55p to 242.5p after blaming the poor furniture market for a shortfall in profits. The textile group Dawson International unravelled 2.5p lower to 18p after talking of a tough trading environment.

SEAQ VOLUME: 929m SEAQ TRADES: 76,343 GILTS INDEX: n/a

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PowerGen lines up US buver

POWERGEN is poised to announce the £1bn-plus sale of two of its coal-fired power stations to a US electricity company. The UK generator has decided to sell the two stations - Ferrybridge and Fiddler's Ferry - to a single bidder in order to maximise the price.

The two stations will be sold to either NRG or Edison Mission Energy, both of the US, and an announcement is expected

By Michael Harrison **Business Editor**

to be made early next week. There had been speculation that the two stations would be sold separately. But PowerGen is understood to have persuaded the Government that in order to create a powerful new competitor in the UK electricity market, it is preferable to have just one buyer.

Edison Mission Energy already owns the pumped storage power stations that were for merly part of National Grid, which may tip the balance in favour of NRG.

The two stations, which each have an output of 4.000 megawatts, are expected to fetch between £1bn and £1.5bn, which will include the coal supplies they are already contracted to buy.

SKB strikes Avandia deal after approval

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM yes- By ANDREW VERITY terday said it had struck a deal with US competitor Bristol-Avandia, the blockbuster diaauthorities this week. On Wednesday SKB was

given the green light to sell the drug by the US Food and Drug Administration's advisory panel, giving it access to the multi-bilion dollar market for diabetes The FDA ruled the drug was free of any links to unusual

liver damage, giving SKB a crucial marketing edge over some ype 2 diabetes treatments. Yesterday a fierce battle for market share was in prospect when the FDA said Actos, a rival

to Avandia produced by Eli Lilly not linked to liver damage. Type 2 diabetes, a condition caused by the inability of the body to respond to natural insulin, affects around 100 mil-

lion people across the world and

16 million in the US, most of

them in the older age brackets. Type 2 diabetes is the leading cause of adult blindness and kidney failure in the US. The conditions and its complications cause around 500 deaths a day in the US alone.

The new drugs help to reduce

insulin resistance and allow the Myers Squibb to co-promote body to control its own bloodsugar level. SKB has completbetes drug given approval by US ed more than 20 clinical trials involving 500-plus patients. Rezulin, the rival drug de-

veloped by Warner Lambert, is expected to realise sales of \$750m (£465m) in spite of being linked to serious liver damage. The FDA allows the drug to be prescribed, but only alongside other treatments. Avandia can be used on its own.

Analysts expect Avandia and Actos to realise sales of \$3bn between them within four years. Until now there were fears that these might also cause liver

SKB's collaboration with ol-Myers Souibb will Avandia an extra marketing push. Bristol-Myers is currently the market leader in diabetes treatments through its Glucophage product.

Howard Pien, president of SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, said: "Given the extensive experience Bristol-Myers Squibb in bringing Glucophage to patients with type 2 diabetes, [we] understand well the urgent need to provide physicians with additional new therapeutic options."

Wassall promises one-year truce on **BICC**

WASSALL, the bottletops-to-travel goods maker, yesterday made an official promise not to go hostile for at least a year in its £746m bid for BICC, the engineering group, after pressure from the Takeover Panel.

The promise came after a put up or shut up" order from the panel concerned about the potential for the bid to disrupt

By Andrew Verity

BICC's business. On Tuesday the panel said Wassall must either go hostile or cease making informal takeover offers for the group by 1pm yesterday.

The group has in the past five months said it is willing to make informal offers of 90p and 110p for BICC. On Thursday, less

it raised the figure to 125p. Yesterday the bid was formally rejected by BICC.

"The requirement comes under rule 35 [of the takeover put-up-or-shut-up type of provi-sion. There is obviously a phoney war which has been going on for some time, which leads to un-

than a day before the deadline, certainties for the offeree company," said a panel spokesman. The panel's immediate con-

cern stemmed from the forthcoming 4 May extraordinary meeting being held by BICC to code] and it is true to say it is a approve the £275m sale of its energy cables business. Wassall wants to buy all of BICC.

Wassall indicated it believed it still had a hope of winning

shareholders' favour. But it is now barred from making further informal offers. Alan Jones, chief executive of BICC, said: "This stops them stalking us and it means the issue now is whether we should complete the transactions on the table."

Shares in BICC rose from 107.50 to 108.50, while shares in Wassall fell 9p to 249.5p.

IN BRIEF

World Telecom to provide Tesco card

WORLD TELECOM yesterday tried to offset disappointing results with the news that it has been chosen to provide supermarket chain Tesco with a branded pre-paid phonecard. Pre-tax losses at the Aim-listed telecoms provider came in at £9.28m, against analysts' forecasts of £7.3m. Analysts said the company was hit by low-margin products taking a larger share of overall sales. Its pre-paid phone cards - 19 per cent up - were hit by competition from BT's Payphone Access Charge, launched in late 1997. The shares closed flat at 58p.

Record losses for Japanese brokers

THREE OF Japan's biggest securities houses yesterday posted record losses for the last financial year. Nomura Securities, the country's largest brokerage, reported a consolidated net loss - calculated under stringent US accounting standards - of 466.9bn yen (£2.4bn). Daiwa Securities, the number two house, and Nikko Securities, the number three, announced group net losses of 127.9bn yen and 177.5bn yen respectively. Both Nomura and Daiwa reported healthy profits on their domestic businesses.

Sainsbury's plans new division

SAINSBURY'S is to set up a new commercial division to turn the business around, the group said yesterday. The division will incorporate 80 to 85 staff from the Savacentre head office in Wokingham, Berkshire, which is to close with the loss of up to 230 jobs. Five new senior positions have been created to run the new division. This is the first phase of a full reorganisation of the trading divisions of Sainsbury's supermarkets. The new teams will be effective from 3 May and the full structure will be in place in four months' time.

COMPANY RESULTS

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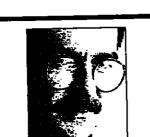
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And yet, when you step back and shut the door behind you, what other thoughts crowd in? If he comes for the milk bill tomorrow. we're talking about a post-dated cheque. What would have happened if Cole hadn't followed up? Lightbulbs and cat litter. Lightbulbs, cat litter, and find chequebook. Surely the referee would have given Yorke a penalty?

Being humbled by the cosmos is like staring into the sun - not something you can spend too much time on. Instead, the mind veers away to



ROWBOTTOM

other concerns. Which is where the real problems begin.

If I could concentrate my mental resources on useful projects. such as remembering where I put the car keys, remembering not to leave the newspapers by the front

them, and, oh yes, remembering a 1950s American quiz show. I idenwhere I left my chequebook - if I could master even these small accomplishments, my life would be

Even better if I could store useful information in my head. How many stopcocks are there in the house, and where are they? Which fuses correspond to which lights? What is my current tax coding? Where, exactly, is the garden fork? Did we lend it to anybody, and if so on what basis?

That advertisement with the challenging questions in thick black type which crops up on the front of newspapers - do you forget names, people, faces? - actually, I don't recall the details - well, it rings a bell. That accompanying picture of a baffled young man who looks like

tify with him. A psychologist writes: This problem occurs because the subject does not wish to take on adult responsibilities and engage with adult patterns of behaviour.

The subject responds: Not true. I don't take any pleasure in being inefficient. It simply wastes my time and prevents me doing other things which are more enjoyable. And even those things are adversely affected.

I have often thought it would be nice to remember poetry - even accepting the obvious risks of becoming one of those people who remembers poetry. To be able to call upon an apt quote when the occawould like, when the occasion

I once spent several hours trying to commit to memory a poem by Louis MacNiece, The Sunlight on the Garden, because, basically, I liked it. A colleague of mine with a particularly well-stocked mind spent several... pints, actually... trying to coach me in my task.

And, for a while, it worked. I had consciously enriched my mental store. I had added something of real value. But the words slipped away like... well... they slipped away.

Yet some things do lodge in the space between my ears. They fall into two broad categories.

The first is pop tunes and lyrics. Especially - and perversely - those I have heard my children singing sion requires would be... well... I over breakfast, or late at night when they should be asleep. These

door because the cat pisses on someone stumped for an answer on requires, to be able to call upon an songs are usually associated with strutting youths with body piercing - or an unnaturally mature 15year-old thrusting her pelvis at the television cameras.

The second, thank God, is sport. I may not be able to remember poetry, but I can recall certain sporting moments with the utmost clarity, and I can recall the emotion

Frank Lampard Snr, who hardly ever scored, jigging around a corner flag after scoring for West Ham in the 1980 FA Cup semi-final

against Everton. Peter Elliott actually winning the title his talent merited at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, accelerating away from the Kenyans with a broadening grin. Arthur Ashe concentrating his

willpower at the side of Wimbledon's Centre Court before finishing off the new brat on the block, Jimmy Con-

Life is full of mysteries. But these are the kind I find myself dwelling on. Why didn't every England footballer at the last World Cup practice penalties as a matter of course? Why did West Ham sign Isin Dowie? Even more puzzlingly, why did they buy him back after they'd sold him? (I've read Harry Redknapp's reasons, and I'm still not convinced.) Why does David Ginola wear a vest? What does Dennis Wise do for an encore?

And all this week, there has been another one nagging away at me. What would have happened if Cole hadn't followed up? Would the referee have given Dwight Yorke a

Renaissance of Llanelli's treble-chasers

The Scarlets have put their financial difficulties behind them and are on course to bring trophies and crowds back to Stradey Park. By Chris Hewett

Old Trafford, both literally and figuratively: Manchester United attract more supporters for a single game than Llanelli pull in over the course of a dozen, and David Beckham's weekly wage packet would keep the entire Scarlets squad fed days of bolting the Stradey gates and and watered for the best part of a month. Still, parallels exist between the two: both wear red. both usually play their home matches in a concornered the market in sporting romance. Oh yes, one other thing. Both are chasing a treble that would mean the world to them.

Admittedly, Alex Ferguson would think long and hard before swapping one of his garden gnomes for the Welsh Rugby Union Challenge Trophy, the Welsh Premiership and what is, for the time being, still referred to as the Swalec Cup (Swalec are pulling the plug in frustration at the political overkill on the far side of the Severn Bridge). But for those of us who have been reared on tales of Scarlet derring-do - of Carwyn and Deime, and Benny and Grav, and the legendary 1972 win over the All Blacks - Llanelli's sudden reemergence as a power in the land is worthy of celebration.

This afternoon, Robbie McBryde's brilliant Parisians of Stade Français team visit Ebbw Vale in a Premier in this season's European Cup, only ship play-off match of considerable significance; victory would establish Llanelli, who already have the Challenge Trophy on the Stradey clubhouse shelf, as the odds-on favourites for the title, with a cup final against the neighbouring hot-shots from Swansea still to come. They have lost only twice in 17 games and when Stuart Gallacher, their chief executive, talks about a "transformation" in fortunes, he is by no means

overstating the case. As recently as November 1996 Llanelli were on their knees and Welsh rugby – no, damn it, world rugby - was in serious danger of losing one of its treasures. With professionalism in it's chaotic, good-money-after-bad runaway stage, the Scarlets spent cash they

STRADEY PARK is a long way from did not have on players they could not afford, not least Frano Botica, the a whole has conducted itself in reformer All Black stand-off. That naivete cost them their famous old ground, sold to the Union for £1.25m, and very nearly cost them a whole lot more. The Scarlets were within calling in the pin-striped receivers.

sympathetic intervention and the success of a share issue that raised £560,000 from scratch, the club stayed afloat. But the after-shock bility. People want to know that was almost as damaging as the financial earthquake: in the autumn of 1997, the All Blacks returned to a packed Stradey for a sentimental silver anniversary re-match and you have a higgledy-piggledy strucscored 13 tries in an 81-3 landslide. The ground has not been full since; when Llanelli took on and beat the

'Part of the problem is we have turned people off. The absence of Cardiff and Swansea has made life very difficult.'

2,000 or so watched them do it.

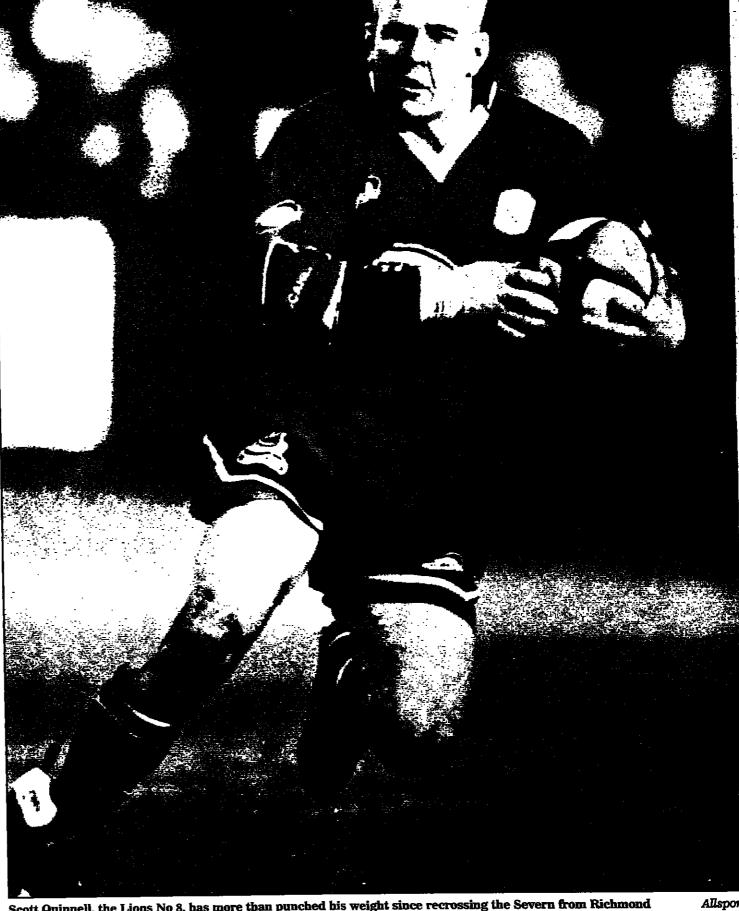
"We've had a good few months, no doubt about it, but our gates are still a big negative," admitted Gallacher this week. "We're averaging around 4,000 at the moment, but we need 6,000-plus if we're going to build the business in the right way. Where have the crowds gone? I can't tell you. We still have support in the locality - if you need proof that Llanelli is a rugby town, look at our share issue, where we raised more than half-a-million [pounds], not through a single sugar daddy but through more than 1,000 rank and file Scarlets. But we're not getting them in on a Saturday afternoon, despite our best efforts in selling ourselves to the

be found in the way Welsh rugby as cent years. Let's be honest, we've turned people off. The absence of Cardiff and Swansea from domestic [league] competition has made life very difficult and the collapse of the British League negotiations hasn't helped. In addition, our recent Largely as a result of the WRU's success has led to a number of our games being broadcast live on television at 5.30 on a Saturday night. To build an audience, you need stathere will be a big game at Stradey once a fortnight, kick-off 2.30. There is no point talking about revenue streams and all the rest of it when

ture like ours.

For all that, Gallacher has stabilised Llanelli's off-field position in his 18 months as chief executive, just as Gareth Jenkins, the outstanding club coach in Wales, has stabilised performances on the paddock. Last weekend's cup semifinal demolition of the Cardiff rebels a victory almost dripping in schadenfreude – underlined the effectiveness of a recruitment campaign that has brought Scott Quinnell, the Lions No 8, back to Stradey along with two fellow Welsh internationals, Byron Hayward and John Davies, and Salesi Finau, a ruthlessly physical wing from the South Sea Islands. Quinnell has more than punched his weight since re-crossing the Severn from Richmond; indeed, the Scarlets have barely lost since his return.

Now that Llanelli have been awarded "super club" status by the WRU - the union will pump in £250,000 a year for the next two years in return for a seat on the Stradey board and an input in player devel opment - they intend to strengthen further in an effort to leave their scarlet mark on next season's European Cup. Indeed, tangible success in the richest club tournament in the world would give them an opportunity to repurchase their spiritual home from their landlords.



Scott Quinnell, the Lions No 8, has more than punched his weight since recrossing the Severn from Richmond

at the original selling price under the so, we will need a more powerful, terms of a deal that shows the gov- more flexible squad and, yes, that erning body, lambasted and ridiculed from Milford Haven to it also means hanging on to what Newport docks for their mismanagement of the game in Wales, in an unusually positive light.

"I think part of the problem can Llanelli have an option to buy back perform," agreed Gallacher. "To do played in the Five Nations. We're carry on offering fixed contracts that

means going into the market. But we have. Chris Wyatt, our second Wales at the moment and under-

him at Stradey. "One of the key factors in our

turning things around has been the understanding of the players, many row, is the hottest property in of whom went through difficult times when the club was really up against "Europe is where we need to standably so, given the way he it. They realised that we couldn't

trying everything we know to keep were way out of our range and they continue to realise that we are operating under tight financial constraints. But they've stood by us and made things happen on the pitch. We're all a little bit wiser as a result of what happened. Hopefully, we're now in a position to build something

Weakened Sale ready to rebuff the champions elect

IT WOULD not be entirely accurate to describe Sale's relationship with Leicester in Ali-Frazier terms; after all, the Manchester club are no one's idea of a true heavyweight. Still, the two sides have spent much of the last three years punching seven bells out of each other and nutual respect is fairly thin on the ground. Sale love to cast Leicester in the "big ugly bear" mould, while the Midlanders have long held the view that their rivals are too lippy for their own good.

Hence the heightened interest in this afternoon's 15-rounder at Heywood Road, where the Tigers have a chance of wrapping up the Allied Dunbar Premiership title three

BY CHRIS HEWETT

weeks early. "Relationships haven't been brilliant between ourselves and Leicester," admitted Sale's director of rugby, Adrian Hadley, yesterday. "The 1997 league match up here was an acrimonious affair there was trouble on the pitch and the referee had a rough time off it after awarding them a late penalty try that took them into Europe at our expense. Things have moved on, though. It will be a decent game this time, hopefully."

So keen was Hadley to exercise some water-under-the-bridge diplomacy that he went on to praise Leicester as "worthy champions", ig-

victory at Bedford today would allow Tim Rodber's side to contest the issue for another week at least. "You have to admire their strong squad and consistency of performance," he said. "Leicester away is the toughest game of the season and Leices-

ter at home is the second toughest." They tend to be particularly tough when your own side is in tatters. Sale have endured a horrible few weeks. bidding a fractious farewell to their coach, John Mitchell, and seeing a number of leading players, including their international wings David Rees and Steve Hanley, pick up season-threatening injuries. Their financial situation is so desperate

noring the fact that a Northampton that they have placed their most in mortal combat, eighth-placed recent England cap, Barrie-Jon Mather, on the transfer list. What price a Sale victory under those un-

propitious circumstances? "We aren't frightened of them," insisted Hadley, "even though our own season has been pretty disappointing: brilliant one week, rubbish the next." Brave words indeed but, just to make matters worse for the underdogs, their experienced scrum-half, Kevin Ellis, is a doubtful starter. Leicester, on the other hand, give their own first-choice halfback, Austin Healey, a first Premiership start since February.

Down in mid-table, where a fistful of European contenders are locked

Newcastle will fancy their chances of closing in on a top-six position by beating the travel-sick whipping boys of Gloucester at Kingston Park. Va'aiga Tuigamala and Peter Walton are likely absentees from the Falcons' line-up, while Gloucester go in without their injured Samoan centre, Terry Fanolua, who is replaced by the Premiership debutant Mike Davies. Their midfield problems may be eased next week, however. Cliff Mytton, a 30-year-old Aucklander whose performances for Stade Français have earned him all sorts of accolades on the far side of the Channel, is being linked with a move to Kingsholm.

colleagues back home in New Zealand have forged an English link of their own. The Auckland Blues, the most successful Super 12 outfit in the history of the southern hemisphere competition, intend to foster a close working relationship with Worcester, the ambitious Premiership Two club coached by Les Cusworth. In addition, the All Blacks intend to use Worcester's state-of the art training facilities

during this autumn's World Cup. Meanwhile, the International Rugby Board admitted five new national unions - Cameroon, Colombia, India, Peru and the Pacific island of Niue - to the rugby fraternity during their annual meeting in Buenos Aires.

By coincidence, Mytton's former More significantly, they sounded the death knell for old-style rugby élitism by guaranteeing a number of lessfashionable unions regular Test activity against the traditional powers of the 15-man game. Argentina, Canada, Fiji, Italy, Japan, Romania, Tonga, the United States and Western Samoa will all benefit from a new fix- -ture schedule drawn up by Bernard Lapasset, the French chairman of the

IRB tours committee. In addition, board members agreed to ban pain-killing injections both directly before and during matches. Vernon Pugh, the IRB chairman, will head a new antidoping committee, to be put in place. before the World Cup kicks off.

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Faldo folds to increase Ryder fears

NICK FALDO had already packed his bags and admitted yet another defeat when lightning halted the Peugeot Spanish Open in mid-afternoon in Barcelona yesterday.

A dismal second-round 76 ~ one of the worst scores of the day on an El Prat course yielding birdies and eagles galore resigned Faldo to a sixth missed cut in 10 starts this season. There were no excuses from the former world No 1, whose slump has taken him down to 99th in the current rankings and put him in danger of missing out on the Ryder Cup for the first time in his 23-year professional career.

"It's me," sighed Faldo after coming in on the two-over-par mark of 146 and looking up to see the Scotsman Paul Lawrie and Sweden's Jarmo Sandelin sharing the lead 14 strokes ahead of him. "I played badly and putted badly. Do you need to know any more? I've a bit of work to do - I've got to get the stroke right.'

Two early three-putts undid the good of an opening 70, but putting could not be blamed for the two double-bogeys that followed. First he hit a drive under one tree; then he lost a ball in another.

Faldo plays next at the Benson and Hedges International at The Oxfordshire in three weeks, by which time he will have gone more than 26 months since his last solo success. His last European victory was five years ago.

His 1999 tale of woe began

By Mark Garrod

in Barcelona

with missed cuts in South Africa and Dubai, a first-round drubbing from Tiger Woods at the Andersen Consulting world matchplay championship in California, then two more missed cuts in Florida. The 41year-old actually led the Players' Championship after nine holes last month but shot a third-round 83 and was disqualified in the final round after losing another ball in a tree and taking a wrong penalty drop underneath it.

Worse was to come, though. He began the Masters with an 80 two weeks ago and missed the cut for the third successive year. Now this, a day on which playing partner Seve Ballesteros outscored him by seven.

Ballesteros has gone five years without a win anywhere, is outside the world's top 450 and had missed his first six halfway cuts this season. But his 69, containing four birdies and a 15-foot eagle putt, lifted him to two under, and he had to wait to see if that was good enough to give him his first weekend work for nearly six months.

Meanwhile, Lawrie and Sandelin both repeated their opening rounds of 66 and on 12 under led Kent's Jamie Spence by one with half the field still to finish following the one-hour hold-up. The Masters champion, Jose Maria Olazabal, and

highly rated Spanish youngster Sergio Garcia were among them. With seven to play, Olazabal was one under and battling to stay alive, while with six to go Garcia, in his debut as a prossional, was still five under He had three more birdies but also a triple-bogey seven on the eighth after losing a ball in a

Lawrie, the 30-year-old from Aberdeen, has already won the Qatar Masters this season, and the £100,000 first prize on Sunday could take him sixth in the Ryder Cup table. He had no fewer than nine birdies, the best of them when he came within four inches of a hole-in-one at the 180-yard 17th. "I think this course suits me." he said. "There are a lot of shots of 120 yards and in, and that's the strongest part of my game."

tree like Faldo.

Big-hitting Sandelin is currently 13th in the cup race - five places ahead of Lawrie - and his 66 began with four straight birdies while Spence, seeking his first victory since a closing 60 gave him the 1992 European Masters, led by one with three to play, but in a strengthening wind bogeyed the 16th and 18th.

SPANISH OPEN Early second round leaders: 13.2 J Sandelin (Swej 66 66, P. Lawrie 66 66: 133 J Spence 65 68: 135 P McGmtey 67 68: 136 P Eales 69 67. A Salto (Sp) 73 63. E Canonica (II) 72 64. M Jorzon (Swej 67 69, G Evans 72 64; 137 M Roe 73 64: 138 V Phillips 69 9, R Winchester 71 67. D Borrego (Sp) 68 70. S Luna (Sp) 71 67. T Levet (Fr) 69 69. P O'Mailey (Aus) 71 67. D Smyth 74 64: 135 A Beai 71 68, I Garbut 72 67. C Rocca (It) 69 70. S Harsen (Den) 71 68. P Price 70 69, P Harrington 71 68; 140 R Karlsson (Swe) 70 70. M Jimene; 15p) 72 68. P Fulke (Swe) 70 70, S hjeldsen (Den) 69 71. W Bennett 70 70. Other selected scores: 142 5 Ballesteros (Sp): 144 P



Nick Faldo waits to putt out on the ninth green on his way to missing the cut at the Spanish Open in Barcelona yesterday

Money boost for middle men Sudden death for bantams

GRAND PRIX circuit details were announced vesterday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation with the designated men's events heavily favouring the middle distance

Last year's overall grand favourite to repeat his success with the 800 metres, 1500 and Golden League events. 3,000 all counting for points this season.

The women's champion, the American sorinter Marion Jones, however, will be hardpressed to retain her crown as the 100, 400 and long jump are ATHLETICS

BY KIERAN DALEY all missing from the women's

events which count this time. El Guerrouj and Jones, along with the Fith prix winner, Hicham El Guer- runner, Haile Gebrselassie. rouj, from Morocco, looks shared a \$1m (£600,000) jacknot last season for winning all their

> In total there will be \$3.38m available in prize money for the grand prix circuit. The figure, unchanged from last season, covers the seven-meeting Golden League, 10 grands prix and 11 grands prix II meetings.

The final will be held in Munich on 11 September where individual event winners will each earn \$50,000. The overall grands prix winners will receive

rano prix mens events are the 200m, 800m, 1500m, 3,000m, 3,000m steeplechase. 110m hurdles, long jump, pole vault, javelin. For women, the designated events are: 200m. 800m 1500m, 3,000m, 400m hurdles.

high jump, triple jump, shot put. The doping hearing of Sri Lanka's leading female sprintbeen adjourned until July, ac-

cording to track and field's world governing body. The 24-year-old sprinter, who faces a two-year ban after testing positive for the steroid nandrolone in a random doping test last year, ap-This year's designated peared at the IAAF doping panel

Giorgio Reineri, an IAAF spokesman, said Javasinghe presented new evidence at the hearing, forcing the threemember doping panel to adjourn the case to a date in July.

Jayasinghe, who won a silver medal in the 200m at the 1997 world championships in er Susanthika Javasinghe has Athens, tested positive for nandrolone-19 in April 1998.

AS THE leading lights in British judo gather in Birmingham for the British Open Champianshins this weekend it seems that at last the sport is emerging from a confused decade.

Despite occasional successtion, there was no hiding the lack of central direction amidst falling membership of the British Judo Association and poor results.

Under the chairmanship of Lesley-Anne Alexander – the first woman to hold the post and still the only national woman chairman in world) the BJA has regrouped and now

JUDO

BY PHILLIP NICKSAN presents a more creditable

The imaginative, though malz, the German Olympic featherweight champion, in overall charge of the national squads, appears to be paying off, with regular medals in A internationals since January and from a wide range of competitors. With quiet assurance and professionalism he has

won the respect of the players

and the administration.

has traditionally been strong has been met positively by the Sports Councils and the Lottery Sports Funds. A total of £1.4m the national squads and similar as only one will be going. sums for the next six years seem likely, allowing steady will compete at 81kilos, rather planning not just for the Sydney than his normal 73kg tomorrow, Olympics, but also Athens.

He is helped by financial se-

curity. Alexander's bid for proper

funding for a sport where Britain

leading fighters are competing. World heavyweight junior champion Karina Bryant and former world lightweight champion Nicola Fairbrother com-

pete today in what is a warmup for the European Championships - both are pre-selected. For the three leading bantamweights in the men's division, John Buchanan, Sam Dunkley and Jamie Johnson, there is everyt

Lightweight Danny Kingston to save the main dieting effort This weekend most of the for the Europeans; and there could be the long-awaited match between feather weights Georgina Singleton and Debbie Allan if the latter's Achilles tendon heals in time.

New structure benefits fans

AS IF the drama and tension of the occasion was not enough, Terrell Myers' last second shot which won the Budweiser League championship for Sheffield Sharks two weeks ago against Manchester Giants now has added significance.

The Sharks will be the last team to win England's premier basketball competition ending a line of champions which began in 1973 with Avenue and whose roll call includes Embassy All Stars, Crystal Palace, Doncaster, Solent, Portsmouth and Kingston. "It's a nice touch to think

said the Sharks general manager, Yuri Matischen, "but it's purely incidental in this restructuring of the game." Next season the Budweiser League will be contested in north and south conferences,

we'll be the last champions,"

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

Jay Goldberg, Manchester's general manager, who was in the front office of the Houston Rockets when they won the NBA title in 1994, put forward his plans for the competition last year. He has since worked with Matischen and the league's Rob Webb and Tim Rudge in devising the new structure.

Goldberg said: "It's a bold and exciting development. People are often asked why we bothered going through playoffs when we've spent the previous eight months beating the hell out of each other. Now the play-off winner will be the

undisputed champion." Matischen agreed: "The play-offs were just an add-on and made no sense. We don't have to stick with a league with the play-offs deciding the structure, we're not soccer and championship instead of a fabricated end of season jamboree. don't want to be."

will play twice home and away

against conference members. and once home and away against teams from the other conference. A proposed play-off structure, yet to be agreed, will reward each conference champion by giving them a bye

to the finals. The third and fourth team in each conference would play off for the right to meet the two secondplaced teams, with the winners joining the conference champions in the finals. Fans will benefit from an inreased number of local games.

The League chairman, Kevin Routledge, said: "Fans want to follow their team to away games but are prevented by long travelling distances and evening tipoffs. This move will put more games within their reach."

In a further move, next season the quarter-finals of the

Six teams in the south con- uni-ball League Trophy and ference and seven in the north national cup will move to single venue events played over one day or a weekend, maximising large capacity arenas and guaranteeing television

Next weekend sees the last play-offs under the present format at the Wembley Arena, between Sheffield, Manchester. Thames Valley Tigers and London Towers. Next season's southern con-

ference will include Brighton. Greater London, London, Thames Valley, Milton Keynes and Birmingham. The northern conference will be made up of Leicester, Derby, Sheffield, Manchester, Chester, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Martin Ford has been promoted to head coach at Derby Storm after being assistant to Bob Donewald, whose contract was not renewed for the new season which begins in Sep-

Cricket dropped from the Games

CRICKET IS to be excluded from the 2002 Commonwealth Games, despite its success in Kuala Lumpur last year.

The Commonwealth Games Federation yesterday approved the list of 14 individual and three team sports to be included in the Games. Table tennis and triathlon are new events and the popularity of rugby union sevens in Kuala Lumpur means it is retained. The other team sports will be netball and men's and women's

Cricket sparked much interest in Malaysia, despite continual changes to the schedule due to rain, with Australia eventually winning gold. The West Indies Cricket

hockey.

Board must answer to the International Cricket Council following the pitch invasion at the end of Wednesday's oneday match with Australia in Georgetown, Guyana.

"I suspect it was more exuberance than intimidation but it is still not acceptable in modern cricket,' said the ICC chief executive, David Richards, "I shall be speaking to our referee as a matter of urgency. I'm looking forward to reading his end-oftour report, and we will take fur-

ther action then." ■ The all-rounder Alan Dawson will replace the fast bowler Makhaya Ntini in South Africa's World Cup squad, following Ntini's conviction yes-

Ntini convicted. Foreign news, page 14

CRICKET SCOREBOARD PPP Healthcare County Championship

Hampshire v Kent

SOUTHAMPTON (Day 3 of 4): Rent are trailing Hai by 234 runs with 7 first-innings wickets in hand

Bürt wir, toss **HAMPSHIRE — First Innings 252 (Ke**ndali 93, McCague

KENT — First Innings Overnight 18-3

Umpires: R Julian and M J Kitchen. No Play Yesterday.

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (Day 3 of 4): Sussex are trailing Northampton shire by 312 runs with 3 first-innings wickets in band Subsect Light 1998

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE — First Innings 391-8 dec. (Hayden 119, Warren 88, Ripley 50no) SUSSEX — First lanings Overnight 79-7 (Makolm 4-27) Umpires: V A Holder and T E Jesty.

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY (Day 3 of 4): Yorkshire are leading Gloucestershire by 184 runs with 7 second-innings wickets in hand

Glovesterativ ೧೯, ಭಾ YORKSHIRE — First Innings 282 (Hamilton 81no. Smith GLOUCESTERSHIRE — First landings 169 (Hamilton 4-26) ORKSHIRE — Second landings Overaight 14-0 iecond Innings Contd

10 Bate: Tr. Johns, J. C. J. Com. M. J. Hoggard.
Bowling: A M Smith 9-4-20-0. J Lewis 13-6-21-3. I J Harvey
6-2-13-0. M W Alleyne 2-0-13-0.
Umpires: D J Constant and B Leadbeater.

Derbyshire v Glamorgan DERRY (Day 4 of 4): Perbyshire (4pts) drew with Glam-organ (5pts)

Glamorean with 1966

DERBYSHURE — Pirst linnings 168-4 Implres: A G T Whitehead and N T Piews. No Play Yesterday.

Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire LEICESTER (Day 4 of 4): Leicestershire (6pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (4pts)

lescenterature was take NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - First Innings 117-5
Umpires: J C Balderstone and J W Lloyds.

No Play Yesterday. Middlesex v Lancashire

LORD'S (Day 4 of 4): Middlesex (4pts) drew with Lan-

Worcestershire v Surrey

WORCESTER (Day 4 of 4): Worcestershire (8pts) dr with Surrey (5pts)

Korowsturehigo ige toda SURREY — First Innings 223 (B C Hollicake 55, Liptrot 5-

WORCESTERSHIRE - First Innings 15-1

Umpires: G I Burgess and N A Mallender No Play Yesterday

Other Match

Cambridge University v Essex FENNER'S (Day 3 of 3): Cambridge University drew w

ESSEX — First Innings 340-3 dec. (Robinson 111, Grayson 83. Prichard \$5) CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - First Innings Overnight

30-0

tS J W Lewis st Rollins b Such 8 0 1 95 82 I Mohammed c Powell ti Cowan32 0 4 87 97 *O J Hughes c Peters b Grayson14 0 1 56 72 R H Halsall c trani b Grayson...... 0 0 0 K D M Walker Ibw b Cowan 10 0 2 21 19 C R Pimiott nor out4 0 0 22 19

Total (for 7, 75 overs)191 Fall: 1-43, 2-55, 3-95, 4-97, 5-97, 6-160, 7-181, To Bat: M J Birks, S M Sheikh,

Bowling: A P Cowan 14-7-17-2. J O Grove 17-3-63-1, P M Such 18-9-21-1, R C Irani 6-3-13-0, A P Grayson 13-4-33-3, Umpires: M R Benson and G Sharp.

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated)

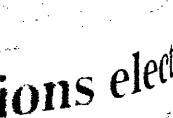
PPP HEALTHCARE County Championship (Day 4 of 4) Southampton: Hampshire v Kent: Hove: Sus-sex v Northamptonshire: Headingley: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire.

CGU NCL - Division Two (1 Day) Taunton: Somerset Sabres v Durham Dynamos (13.30)

Tomorrow's fixtures (13.30 unless stated)

CGU NCL — Division One (1 Day) Chelmsford: Essex Eagles v Lancashire Lightning: Southampton: Hamp-shire Hawks v Kent Spitfires; Edgbaston: Warwicksex Crusaders v Glamorgan Dragons: The Foster's Oval: Surrey Lions v Northamptonshire Steelbacks: Hove: Sussex Sharks v Derbyshire Scorpions.

Shire Bears v Worcestershire Royals: Headingley: Yorkshire Phoenix v Gloucestershire Gladiators.
CGU NCL — Division Two (1 Day) Lord's: Middle-



Thursday in England's Champions Trophy squad for Brisbane, has been dropped from the Southgate squad to play Cannock the English champions, in tomorrow's EH Cup semi-final at the Morris Ground. Southgate's coach, Neil Hawgood, has spent the whole season trying to convert Giles

into an all-round field player

now that he is no longer allowed

to be substituted on to take

CALUM GILES, named on

penalty corners. Finally his patience has snapped. Another Southgate casualty is the Welsh international, Andrew Grimes, in a game which

BY BILL COLWILL

is their last chance to achieve something out of the season. Teenagers John Grice and Jon Peckett come into the squad.

Cannock will be missing their England centre-half Justin Pidcock who was injured at Reading last weekend and also Martin Jones who will be captaining Repton in the final of the RAF Careers Youth Under-18 Cup final. Pidcock came out of hospital on Thursday after a successful operation on his injured knee.

Reading, after their two outstanding performances in the Premiership play-offs last weekend, will start favourites to win the second semi-final away to Old Loughtonians.

In today's women's EH Cup semi-finals at Milton Keynes a depleted Slough side will play Chelmsford Highway while Olton Terraquest face Fyffes

Slough will be without their influential Irish international Sarah Kelleher in their midfield and defender Ali Burd, who popped up last weekend to score both their goals which put experience it would be a brave them through to the League man to predict the winner.

Championship final against Clifton Scottish Life. There is also considerable doubt about captain Sue Chandler who missed last week's game.

ready achieved promotion into the Premier Division, will be at full strength. Leicester's recent a moriorm will give them a lot or confi-

dence along with the return of the England striker Purdy Miller who will be available for her first full game of the season after returning from injury. With Olton's blend of youth and

Southgate lose patience with Giles

Chelmsford, who have al-

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SO THIS, suddenly, is it. No more first-fence fallers, no By GREG WOOD more cursing as your jockey goes out the side exit, and no more wondering what might have been but for that bad blunder two out. Or not for another six months, at any rate, because the Whitbread Gold Cup effectively marks the end of the 1998-99 National Hunt season. All that diehard followers of the winter code can do between now and October is book early for the Cheltenham Festival, and perhaps plan a trip to Galway or Punchestown.

But the jumpers do at least have a fine race with which to take their leave. It is just two weeks since Bobbyjo bounded cheerfully around Aintree to become the first Irish-trained National winner in a generation, but he is back in Britain for the Whitbread and sure to start favourite this afternoon. The 18 horses lined up against him include Baronet, last year's Scottish National winner, Boss Doyle, who was one of Ireland's best novices last year. and Betty's Boy, who won a more of interest. valuable chase at the Festival.

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Bobbyjo (Sandown 3.30) NB: Silver Robin

(Leicester 5.05)

One absentee, though, will be Paul Carberry, who rode Bobbyjo at Aintree. A recent injury while riding work for Noel Meade has ruled Carberry out, and his place will be taken by Adrian Maguire, who rode last year's Whitbread winner, Call

It A Day. "I sat on Bobbyjo this

morning." Maguire said yesterday. "and he feels fine." exercise there must be some champion over jumps, against doubt about whether Bobbyjo Frankie Dettori, th will run up to his best so soon champion" on the Flat (Keiren after the National It is true that Fallon, presumably, was not he might not need to, since he interested). ran off an 11lb higher mark at Liverpool, and also worth not- Park and Omar's Odyssey, both ing that he ran twice within a of them very ordinary horses fortnight last season, and did from Philip Mitchell's yard and rather better in the second race than the first. Nothing exhausts a horse quite like the National, however, and this race, Bobbyjo's seventh of the season, could be one too many. In the circumstances, the quote of Robert Thornton is to part

3-1 is easily resisted.

faster ground, and Boss Doyle has yet to recapture last year's form, which could leave the way clear for an outsider. The one who catches the eye is MAH-LER (nap 3.30).

Mahler would probably prefer a softer surface, but otherwise he is a very solid 12-1 chance, now that a back problem which troubled him earlier this year seems to have been cured. On the pick of his form last year - his win in the £100.000 Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown - he is very well handicapped, and his stayingon sixth over an inadequate trip at Aintree last time hinted at a return to his best.

There are just five runners in the preceding novice chase, yet it is much harder to find a worthwhile bet. Andsuephi (2.50) may be a little more reliable than Dines, who won last time out despite almost refusing to start and losing 20 lengths in the process, but it is the Flat events which offer Many punters will not look

beyond Glamis in the Thresher Classic Trial, given that John Gosden wins the race with monotonous regularity: and this Derby prospect has already won well this season. A value alternative. though, could be Deboush (next best, 410), who won the Easter Stakes at Kempton despite finding trouble in running. The Brigadier Gerard Stakes, meanwhile, could fall to Secret Saver (4.45), who would prefer an extra couple of furlongs but might just find this stiff 10 furlongs an adequate test.

One contest which you will not be able to bet on is the Tote Challenge at 1.15, a match While he might feel fine at which pits Tony McCoy. the

> They will ride O'Garney chosen for their equal (lack of) ability. The winner can hardly claim to be the best rider in Britain, but he will at least receive £5,000, to be donated to the charity of his choice.

company with David Nicholson. And there are doubts too Last year's champion condiabout several of his opponents. tional has turned freelance Baronet's jumping is often very after four years with the Jackshaky, Betty's Boy would like daws Castle trainer.

Orpen leads O'Brien team

ORPEN BECAME Aidan lengths. The winner received a O'Brien's leading candidate for quote of 25-1 for the Derby. the 2,000 Guineas with a pleasing piece of work yesterday and was cut to 6-1 (from 8-1) by William Hill for next Saturday's Classic. O'Brien, winner tired," he said. of the 2,000 a year ago with King Of Kings, may also run Stravinsky and Lavery depending on the state of the ground and confirmed that Sunspangled will carry his hopes in the 1,000 Guineas the following day.

the week to decide about Stravinsky and Lavery. But both must have good or faster ground," O'Brien said. Stravinsky has been withdrawn from the Tetrarch Stakes at the Curragh tomorrow and should he Longchamp tomorrow. Last miss Newmarket he may take season's French champion juin the French 2,000. Michael Kinane will be on Orpen and Sunspangled in the Classics.

shortcomings of another Guin- and Le Roi Chic. Montjeu, eneas aspirant were exposed as tered for the Derby at the sec-Ballet Master finished fourth in ond entry stage, runs in the the opening race to Little Rock. Group Two Prix Greffulhe. Ballet Master began the day as Peter Chapple-Hyam's World a 12-1 shot for the Guineas but Alert, second to Bahamian has now been withdrawn from Bandit at the Craven Meeting. betting on the Classic.

Kieren Fallon, his rider, began most to fear from Frankie Detto show signs of anxiety. His tori's ride, Strawberry Fields. mount found little response, Ripon's card today hinges on leaving Little Rock, trained by a 7.30am inspection. Sonnet by two and a half and Wolverhampton cards, p24

Cecil refused to write off Ballet Master, the 4-9 favourite. "He was cantering one and a half furlongs out and just got The favourite for the 1,000,

Moiava, will now be ridden by Richard Quinn. The filly's trainer, Criquette Head, was forced to look elsewhere for a rider for Moiava after her stable jockey, Olivier Doleuze, incurred a rid-"We'll leave it until later in ing ban. "Instead of a top-class French rider we will have a topclass British rider," Head said. ■ Way Of Light attempts to boost his French 2,000 Guineas claims in the Group Three Prix de Fontainebleau over a mile at venile is opposed by the André Fabre-trained trio, Grazalema, Pinkaral and Indian Danehill, At Sandown yesterday the plus Iridanos, Prince Powhatan

Corston Joker is the class act in the field if he jumps off after a long break, but those who prefer a guaranteed run for their money will probably lean towards the likes of Weaver George, Pentlands Flyer and Charley Lambert. PENT-LANDS FLYER may not have things ell his own way up front, but he looks fairly treated and is worth a second look in a tricky handicap. 6.40 WASHINGTON HOSPITAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,250 added 3m 3f tackles the Italian 2,000 Guin-The chestnut travelled eas- eas in Rome tomorrow. Jimmy ily until a furlong out where Fortune's mount may have

Michael Stoute, to beat Grand Vesterday's results & Ripon



MARKET RASEN

2.10 Flora Dreambird 2.40 Dragons Bay 3.10 Fair And Fancy 3.45 Keen To The Last 4.20 Patras 4.55 Brambleberry 5.30 Waterberg 6.00

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in back straight)

Right-hand, sharp, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furlong.

Course is E of fown on A631. Market Rasen station (Lincoln). Gransby line) Int. ADMISSION: Club £14; Tattersalls £10 (OAP members of course's Jubitee Club half price) Silver Ring £5 dubles Club OAPs half price). Accompanied under 16s fire all endosures Concessoris for students. CAR PARK: picnic areas \$3 per vehicle plus \$5 Saver Ring entry for each occupant remain-FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FIVE-TEAH 5 LATIS ILCS

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 26-112 (23.2%) M Pipe 22-95 (23.2%) Mrs S Smith 15-15 (19%) Miss H Knight 12-40 (30%) LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 30-78 (38.5%) N Williamson 19-83 (22.9%) L Wyer 16-87 (18.4%), P Niven 16-96 (16.7%) FAVOURITES: 227-645 (35.2%). ■ TONGUE STRAP: Leap in The Dark (310), Claverhouse #55), Monaughty Man #55), Brilliamcy (530), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None,

2.10 HEALTH SCHEME SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 added 2m 1f110yds - 7 declared -

Maramarn, weight: 10st. True handicap weights, Freches 9st 12th, Fiora Dream BETTING: 11-4 Round Robin, 7-2 Freckles, 9-2 Digital Option, 5-1 Helenes Hill, 13-2 Lord Discord, 8-1 Mill Orchid, 12-1 Flora Dreambird

FORM VERDICT HELENES HILL is the suggestion in a particularly trappy set today's conditions and is tarrly weighted, though a mulish dis-play last time is a definite negative. Freckles is much respected against her, but does have a question-mark against her sta-

SEDGEFIELD

HYPERION

5.40 Polo Venture 6.10 Pentlands Flyer 6.40 Knight Templar 7.10 Mister Trick 7.40 Jokers Charm 8.10 Ellerbeck

Left-hand, undulating course. Easy fences and long run-in

GOING: GOOD.

Left-hand, undutating course. Easy fences and rong target on chase course of 500yds.

Course is it in SE of town neer junction of A689 and A777. Bus service from Scotchon station (Bm) or Durham station (12m), ADMISSION: Paddock ©9 (OAPs E5); Course E3. CAR PARIX: free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 62-253 (245%), B Ellison 18-121 (149%), J Howard Johnson 18-161 (112%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 42-171 (246%), G Lee 21-99 (212%), L Wyer 18-109 (147%), A Dobble 15-156 (95%)

FAVOURITES: 227-607 (374%).

TONGUE STRAP: Coejaysil (5-40), Pentlands Flyer (6-10), Exclae Man (6:10), Psacemater (6-40), Major Hage (7-40), Helm

Excise Man (6:10), Peacemaker (6:40), Major Hage (7:40), Helm Wind (8:10), Forever Grey (8:10). BUIN (8:10), FOREVER TIME: Mr Fudge (6:10), Maazoom (7:40), The Other Half (7:40), Helm Wind (8:10).

5.40 ALPHAMERIC CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 1f

FORM VERDICT

POLO VENTURE should take care of a medicare bunch after a series of good efforts at this level. Jolly Minister is nothing special but could be worth a second look

6.10 TREVOR ALDERSON'S 50TH H'CAP CHASE (D) £6,000 added 2m 5f

FORM VERDICT

- CHASE (CLASS D) 25,250 Booked Sinter Chase (CLASS D) 25,050 Booked Chase

-9 declared BETTING: 1-2 Knight Templar, 5-1 Peacemaker, 7-1 Young Tomo, 10-1 Kinga Lane, 14-1 Rubon Prince, 33-1 othera

GOING: Good

2.40 UK HYGIENE NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5.000 added 2m 1f 110yds MARCE PORNIC (FR) (19) (D) (BF) M Paramond 5 2 3 Harding SUST2 DRAGONS BAY (19) (CD) (BF) Ms M People, 17 12 Mr A Dempsey B

F32342 MISS PENNYHILL (19) = 3425 6 ft 3 D A McLoughtin (7) B D Gallagher P4650 JILLS JOY (15) 4 Streeter 5 10 0 A S Smch 3

Herena Tutton restaurant legi (cu) if a legislared 11 declared 14 declared 15 declared 16 declared 16 declared 17 declared 18 de FORM VERDICT

TORM VERDICI

MISS PENNYHILL may be the answer to another tropy after Conditions will set and sine a table, weighted without looking on a lenient mark. The insteam Dragons Boy has solid credentals against her even if cloudy high enough in the weights now.

3.10 WIERINGEN ROTARY CLUB H'CAP HURDLE (F) £2.300 added 2m 5f 110yds

FORM VERDICT FAIR AND FANCY is the choice on the basis that his recent form reads well enough in this company, though nothing makes strong appeal in a race in which good recent form is very thin outing appear in a race in which good recent form is very thin on the ground. Straffan Gold, for whom conditions ought not be a problem furlike quate a few of these), is much respected against the selection but does have to prove his current well-being.

FORM VERDICT

This is at the mercy of KNIGHT TEMPLAR, who would have much more to do it this were a handicap and showed himself in good shape when winning last time cut. Peacemaker showed enough at Huntingdon in the autumn to be regarded as the danger if there is one.

7.10 MCEWAN'S DURHAM NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (C) £15,000 3m 4f

FORM VERDICT

GALE FORCE, who beat Ceitic Dules in good style at Cartisle, may be able to confirm the form on a pound better terms even though the latter is entitled to have come on for that run. Misster Muddypaws is a huge threat on his 4m form but the shorter trip here is not in his lavour. Ceitic Glamt is down in class after his mulish display on unsuitably softened going in the Irish National and cannot be ruled out. Spring Gale is attractively weighted on his best form but cannot be relied on to exert himself.

7.40 STANLEY RACING NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (F) \$5,000 added 2m 5f 110yds

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

A race that will not take much winning and certainty well within the compass of KALANTE if he reproduces his suith to AR Gong on good ground at Doncaster late in January. Castletown Count has been change but his hurdles form has worked out well enough for him to have a chance despite his big weight. Mir Cavallo has at least won races and should go well, while there is little to choose between Tipping Tina and Maazzoom. Gus Cumningham has ability but has tooked less than keen.

8.10 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 added mares 2m 5f 110yds

num weight: 10st. True hendicap weights: Rag Doll 9st 8lb, Helm Wind

9st 6th, Forever Grey 9st 2th. BETTING: 3-1 Wymyard Lady, 7-2 Ellerbeck, 4-1 Pontavedra, 7-1 Epo-nine, 8-1 Sousse, 12-1 Leurenhale, 14-1 Helm Wind, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

Pontevedra has shown she can handle this course and distance and is better than she showed last time but this may be best left to ELLERBECK, who looks the type to improve for the step up in trip now she has had time to strengthen up. Wymyard Lady looks sure to be thereabouts but is bealable.

FORM VERDICT

3.45 EUROBALE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,500 added 2m 4f

- 5 declared
- 5 declared
BETTING: 5-4 Jazzman. 2-1 Keen to The Lest, 4-1 Okumo, 12-1 Ambrosis,
14-1 College Dan, 16-1 Pertemps

FORM VERDICT

KEEN TO THE LAST ran well on defeat in his latest run on paid ground and won well on generally soft ground the time before that.

4.20 UK HYGIENE FOR SMOKE FILTRATION NOVICE HURDLE (D) \$4,500 2m 3f 110 yds

FORM VERDICT

Despite a signi concern about the way he jumped right last time. PATRAS has in the the choice 4.55 SPRING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m 4f

Miscrett weight 10st Time harmings weights: Microsofthy

FORM VERDICT
Starring is going to be at a premium in today's conditions and that may hand the advantage to TOM PINCH, who is almost cartainty best at around 3m

5.30 LEVY BOARD STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (H) (Div I) £1,750 1m 5f 110yds

FORM VERDICT

entier is best of those who have run, but new-takuna and WATERBERG look more interesting.

6.00 LEVY BOARD STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (H) (Div II) £1,750 1m 5f 110yds

PRACE (H) (DIV II) £1,750 1m 5f 110yds

1 OCAMAR CRUSADER (5) W McKeown 5.11 4 D Essentit (7)

2 DANCING BID T Care 6 11 4 D Essentit (7)

3 OMICHAEL FRANCISAN SCI Miss L Social 6 11 4 L TSidoli (5)

4 OWTHORPE BORDERS JL Herre 6 11 4 Mr S Stronge (7)

VERAC LAD G McCourt 5 11 4 Mr S Stronge (7)

VERAC LAD G McCourt 5 10 13 Dr For (3)

5 ACE GUNNER (200) J Neville 5 10 13 Dr For (3)

6 ACE GUNNER (200) J Neville 5 10 13 Dr For (3)

8 MENISTA Mr J Ber 5 10 13 Dr For (4)

19 WHISTIENEL LLMDY A Stronger 6 10 12 Mr C P Wester (7)

10 CHAOS THEORY (Mr M Reveley 4 10 12 Mr A Deruphery

10 DEARLY PRINCE (50) 6 Hubbard 4 10 12 C Homour (7)

11 O SARAMAT (42) D Thom 4 10 12 C Homour (7)

12 O PEARLY PRINCE (50) 6 Hubbard 4 10 12 C Homour (7)

13 PEELIXY D Cospone 4 10 12 Mr N Fethly (7)

14 O SARAMAT (42) D Thom 4 10 12 C L Curbinner (3)

15 SPORTING WAY D Geography 4 10 7 G Scipple (3)

16 declared

BETTING: 5-4 Chaos Theory, 7-1 Peerly Princh, 8-1 Michael Finnegau, View Lad, Ace Susters, 14-1 Little Fartisch, Sporting Way, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

PEARLY PRINCE has a far esser task than he did on his Folke-stone debut. Ace Gunner's trainer does well at this level

Jagger 55 1 (in. BETTING: 11-4 Cool Spot. 7-2 Tom Pinch, 4-1 Danbya Gorsa, 5-1 Bram-blabbery, 6-1 Non Vintage, 10-1 Claverhouse, Sister Rossa, 50-1 others

WORCESTER

HYPERION

5.20 Wurlitzer 5.50 Tree Creeper 6.20 The Carrig Rua 6.50 Balladur 7.20 ive Called Time 7.50 Pennyahei

GOING: Good to Soft. Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one futiong run-in.

Course is on the A443 by the River Severn, Worcester (Foregate St) station in: ADMISSION: Members £1350; Tattersals £1050; Course £550 (OAPs £275). Accompanied under-16a free.

CAR PARK: Free: picric area parking £3.
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 53-169 (314%), D Nicholson 29-87 (33.3%), K Beiley 23-87 (26.4%), P Hobbs J9-113 (16.8%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 84-217 (29.5%), R Denwoody 32-152 (211%), C Llewellyn 27-155 (17.4%).

FAVOURITES: 258-695 (38.5%).

TONGUE STRAP: Durbury Flyer (5.20), Balladur (6.50), Legend OI Love (6.50), Frozen Sea (6.50), Ive Called Time (7.20).

Welburn Boy (7.50).

Welburn Boy (750). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Concubhair (530). Bad Bertrich

5.20 KNIGHTS OF CHRISTCHURCH JOUSTING NOVICE HURDLE (E) \$2,900 added 2m

FORM VERDICT The ex-hish Concubhair is an interesting sort for Martin Pipe on some very decem bumper form but if WURLITZER can be kept right (and he has gone to a very competent trainer), he should have a race or two of this type in him.

5.50 EVENING NEWS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

REESHLOCH (96) (D) A Turnel 10 11 0......

BETTING: 5-4 Tree Creeper, 9-4 Hartequin Chorus, 4-1 Chicodari, 10-1 Reesbloch, 16-1 Atours, 33-1 Gentry FORM VERDICT Hartequin Chorus is an interesting returnee to fences but now that TREE CREEPER is on tracks, he is the one to beat.

6.20 RODNEY RICHARDSON CELEBRATION H'CAP CHASE (C) £8,000 2m 7f 110yds

BETTING: 9-4 in The Blood. 7-2 Catar Square, 9-2 Carlingford Gale, 7-1 Spring Double, 6-1 Garmein, Jefferles, 12-1 Act Of Parliament, 20-1 The Carrig Rus

FORM VERDICT It would have been rice to see CEDIAR SQUARE jump a bit more fluently at Bengor last week but he still looked a good sort and one worth following, especially on a sound surface. If there were to be significant rain, in The Blood would clearly take the beating, as his best form is with plenty of cut.

6.50 RON SIMS 25TH ANNIVERSARY H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

— 11 declared — BETTING: 3-1 Silver Miro, 7-2 Belladur, 7-1 Walking Tell, 8-1 Not For Par-rol, 10-1 Nine O Three, Legend Of Love, Dubal Falcon, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

Few with chances, and it is difficult to escape the claims of NOT FOR PARROT, who comes here treat and in good form. Balladur is not one to rely on, and Legend Of Love may

7.20 MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (H) £1,350 2m 7f 110yds

-12213 ARDSTOWN (7) (D) R F Kripe 8 11 9 Liter F Windsor Citye (7) /542 CLUB CAREBEAN (257) (BF) N Oliver 7 11 9Mr N H Oliver (7) 45554 FOUNTAIN OF FIRE (P15) (D) J T-Right 11 11 9.Mr M Black (7) — 17 declared —

BETTING: 7-2 Ardstown, 5-1 Westcountry Lad, 6-1 Mr Mad, 8-1 Beyond The Stars, Ive Called Time, 10-1 Club Caribbean, 12-1 Lakselde Lad,

FORM VERDICT

The odds will probably be short, but it is difficult to get away from ARDSTOWN, who ran well in better company a week ago and is on the upgrade. Ive Celled Time looks solid each-way, with the ground possibly against a couple of other like-

7.50 HUGO BEVAN 25 YEARS AT WORCESTER NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (F) \$2,250 3m

22.03 FEMANATIC (14) S BROOMINM 8 TZ AREJUDE (4)
F-6603 INDUAN LEGEND (93) M/S S WIRATE 6 TO T3. Doubtful
4350P SEPTEMBER BRIEZE (26) J O'Shee 8 TO T2 S Durack
F34051 SEA TARTH (14) P Bowen 8 TO T1 R Johnson
45500 LAUGHING FONTARIE (19) (D) K Bally 8 TO T0 Edger Byrns (7)
8 6FFM5 WELBURN BOY (19) (D) M Sheppard 7 TO S S Wyone B 13 - ISSO LATE ENCOLINTER (10) (D) R Brown 8 10 9 ... J Mogford (7) 4 4550P BAD BERTRICH (56) G Roe 8 10 8 ... Doubtild 15 4P0564 OURCKSWOOD (14) C Barwell 6 10 7 ... B Fenton V

FORM VERDICT

An open race, PENNYAHEI has been running well enough to show that she can win a race of this description and is pre-lerred to Willie B Brave and Harrigale Moss.

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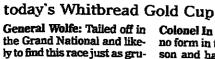
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FIRST SHO

PUNTERS' GUIDE

Whitbread honours can go to Baronet

Steve Smith Eccles, former top jump jockey, analyses



elling under top weight. Senor El Betrutti: Yet to recapture his best form, but will relish the drying ground.

My only doubt is whether he will stay the trip. Boss Doyle: Disappointing last time but a live each-way contender if back to his best Baronet: Lightly raced this season, he goes into this a rel-

prone to the occasional hiccup but will be hard to beat if he puts in a clear round. Court Melody: This old character loves Sandown and could run well if he puts his

best foot forward.

atively fresh horse. He is

Strath Royal: At the ripe old age of 13, I reckon we have seen the best of this fellow. Nahthen Lad: It would be a fairytale if Jenny Pitman's last Whitbread runner took the glory, but not even Richard Dunwoody can be expected to make that happen. Callisoe Bay: Pulled up on

this track in February but could run a big race. Jathib: May find this extended trip beyond him.

Mahler: Has done nothing to suggest he has a chance.

2.50: Course winner Dines is

Fanfaron looks particularly

well treated on his best form.

3.30: Further rain would

harm the prospects of fast-ground contenders Baronet,

Bobbyjo and Betty's Boy.

MAHLER, in contrast, will

appreciate some cut. Carl

Llewellyn's mount reserves

his best form for the spring

and has reportedly recently

received treatment for a

back injury which was

responsible for a loss of form

4.10: The value could lie with

DEHOUSH, who found his

stride late in the day at

Kempton but did so to some

effect, storming through to

lead close home. He will rel-

ish the extra two furlongs

here. Derby entries Adnaan

and Glamis both warrant

4.45: Luca Cumani has start-

ed the season in fine form

and his **ZOMARADAH** can

take advantage of a weak

entry for this Group 3. Gen-

erous Rosi finally regained

winning ways at Kempton,

but he was a 10-11 chance

that day and is unproven in

this grade. A more potent

threat may be the Aidan O'Brien-trained four-year-

old Risk Material.

The second secon

plenty of respect.

earlier in the season.

General Wolfe: Tailed off in Colonel In Chief: Has shown the Grand National and like- no form in two runs this season and has been known to burst blood vessels.

> Fine Thyne: Pulled up twice in four outings and well beaten in the other two.

> The Outback Way: An unknown quantity over this trip. he could be out of his depth. Bobbyjo: The Grand National winner runs off a featherweight but may find this contrasting track a struggle. Betty's Boy: A convincing Cheltenham Festival winner who has been given time to get over the race and is one for the

> The Last Fling: Not the best of jumpers and one I would not like to be riding.

Eulogy: Well beaten by Betty's Boy at Cheltenham and hard to see him turning the tables Major Bell: Each-way prospects if he gets his act together over these stiff fences. Cariboo Gold: Hard to con-

Conclusion: Betty's Boy has been given time to get over his Cheltenham triumph and can run another big race. However, I prefer last year's Scottish Grand National winner, BAR-ONET. Do not write off the Irish challenger, Boss Doyle.

SANDOWN

bound to be popular but his stamina is not guaranteed, TV TIPS and both Andsuephi and FANFARON are capable of taking advantage if it fails.

LEICESTER

reappearance.

too good a horse to dismiss after last Saturday's costly was gained under 10st and today's seven furlongs will suit him more than Thirsk's six. Sir Mark Prescott fields a big danger in the talented filly Grazia, who cruised home at Newbury on her first start last year. Her subsequent defeat in a Group One can be excused and, being a daughter of Sharpo, she has every chance of acting well on this rain-softened ground.

HYPERION'S

2.30: A win by Little Rock at Sandown yesterday gave a boost to the chance of BACKCLOTH, who was a promising eight-length 7th to that colt as a juvenile. Today's race is just a run-ofthe-mill handicap and Backcloth will be in fighting order after another pleasing showing on his reappearance 16 days ago. The pick of his rivals are Red May, who had her recent form boosted by this week's Beverley winner Nika Nesgoda, and Baisse D'Argent, who stayed well as a juvenile and is stepped up even more in distance after contesting a strong race at Newmarket on his

4.30: GAELIC STORM is defeat at Thirsk. One of his four handicap wins last year

1	10-YEAR-T	A L l	E (ИС		:]]=	W	H I .	ΙΒ	R E	A D
F		1989	90	91	92	93	94	95	98	97	98
ŀ	Fate of the fevourites:	P	1	1-2	Q	5	5	2	5	2-F	P
ı	Winner's place in bettin	g: 0	1	ų	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
ı	Starting-prices:	12-1	9-2	4-1	9-2	10-1	25-1	10-1	12-1	14-1	B-1
1	Winners' weights:	100	105	103	10:1	101	100	101	11.10	100	10:10
ł	Winners' ages:	7	TĪ	9	9	10	8	9	10	8	8
l	Profit or loss to £1 state								-572	<u> </u>	
ı	Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 70%										
ı	Shortest-priced winner: Docklands Express (1991) 4-1										
	Longest-priced winner: Ushers Island (1994) 25-1										
ы	Top trainers: K Bailey (2) – Mr Frisk (1990), Docklands Express (1991) D Barons (2) – Topsham Bay (1992 & 1993)										
7	Top jockey: R Dunwoody (2) - Topsham Bay (1983), Cache Fleur (1995)										
ı		Ppus	ed up	Ftell	. jjein	t lavo	urite				
L											

				FIF	3		SHOW					
SA	ND C			 30			SAI	4DC	W	ı 4.	45	
	SANDOWN 3.30 C H L S T							C	H	L	<u> </u>	7
	3-1	11-4	T4		3-1	l	Generous Rosi		94	11-4	11-4	11-4
Bobbyjo				B-1	B-1	1	Zomeradek	3-1	41	41	41	9-2
Bestly's Doy	8-1	8-1	7-1	_=:-		l	Pilak Material	5-1	41	41	7-2	7-2
Burenst	10-1	10-1	9-1	9-1	10-1	l	Secret Sover	5-1	5-1	5-1	92	41
Sons Doyle	12-1	12-1	15-1	10-1	12-1	1	Dark Shell	13-2	7-1	6-1	8-1	6-2
Mahier	10-1	91	12-1	12-1	9-1		Evening World	8-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
		12-1	14-1	12-1	12-1		Prizes Of Denis	16-1	14-1	Ħ-1	J4 -1	12-1
Nahahan Lad	호1						Dynamica	20-1	25-1	30-1	20-1	20-1
Outback Way	2-1	2-1	12-1	11-1	14-1	1	Discond White	40-1	25-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Eulogy	W-1	15-1	14-1	16-1	16-1	•	Each-way a lith the odic, places 1, 2					
Fine Tlayma	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	18-1	•		_	_			
Jethib	16-1	18-1	16-1	15-1	16-1			_				
General Wolle	16-1	18-1	18-1	16-1	18-1	i	LEICESTER 4.30					
Callince Bay	25-1	16-1	18-1	20-1	30-1			C	H	L	<u>s</u>	
Colonel in Chic		20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1	1	Coperin	3-1	10-3	41	7-2	10-3
					25-1	1	Ancisty (IV)	92	5-2	9-2	9-2	9-2
Court Melody	12-1	22-1	25-1	25-1			Walte Heart	5-1	5-1	92	9-2	11-2
The Last Fling	25-1	22-1	25-1	20-1	15-1		Gaelic Storm	6-1	11-2	5-1	6-1	6-1
Cariboo Gold	33-1	33-1	22-1	33-1	25-1		Maranghai	7-1	6-1	5-1	6-1	<u>61</u>
						i i	Trens Island	6-1	7-1	12-1	6-1	13-2

Major Sell 25-1 23-1 23-1 25-1 25-1

Senor El Batrucki 33-1 35-1 45-1 25-1 33-1

Strath Royal 40-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 40-1

Each-way a quarter the colon, places 1, 2, 3, 4

C Coral, H William Hill, L Lacturdess, S Stanley, T Tole

A Company of the Comp

61 74 124 64 13-2

141 161 141 161 141

Turblewood R. 14-1 12-7 14-1 14-1 11-1

Cretan Gift 16-1 16-1 14-1 16-1 16-1

Wind Chestah S-1 S-1 S-1 20-1 S-1

Each-way, a fight the colors, places 1, 2, 3

SANDOWN

HYPERION 2.15 Damalis 4.45 Zomaradah 5.15 Mulligan 2.50 Fanfaron

3.30 Mahler 5.45 Tiger Talk 4.10 Dehoush GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places): Chase course - Good

STALLS: Straight course - lar side; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5f on soft ground. Right-hand course, seven lessing tences along back straight; run-in of 300vds. Sep

Course is on A307, 4m S of Kingston. Esher station (Service from London, Walts adjoins course ADMISSION: Cub C16, Junior Club (17 - 21 yrs) C12; Grandstand & Ped-dock C10; Park enclosure C5. CAR PARK: Free parking available ■ LEADING TRAINERS: Sir M Stoute 27-122 (221%), R Hannon 23-250 (92%), H Cecil

16-76 (211%), J Gosden 16-98 (16.3%), J Dunlop 16-107 (16%), B Mechan 15-118 (12.7%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 51-246 (20.7%), L Dettori 43-206 (20.9%), J Reid 24-188 (12.8%), T Quinn 19-150 (12.7%), K Falton 18-105 (15.2%), R Hills 18-108 (14.8%). FAVOURITES: 190-558 (341%).
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS (Jumps)

LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 22-107 (200%), J Old 19-61 (611%), N Henderson 17-112 (152%), P Nicholis 16-46 (348%), J Gifford 15-138 (109%), P Hobbs 13-57 (22.8%). LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 31-132 (23.5%), A P McCoy 20-109 (18.3%), A Maguire 18-97 (186%), M A Fitzgerald 18-127 (142%), C Maude 10-44 (22.7%). FAVOURITES: 133-380 (35%)

■ TONGUE STRAPS Callison Bay (3.30).
■ LONG DISTANCE RUNNER (within UK): Major Belt (3.30) travels 361 miles.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Petrovna (2.15). Tumblewood Quartet (4.0). Glamis

2.15 BEEFEATER RESTAURANT RATED HANDICAP(CLASS B) £12,000 added 3YO 5f 6vds Penalty Value £7,164

		212,000 saded 510 St Oyus Felialty Value 21,104
ı	01140-	LIGHT THE ROCKET (224) (CD) (M Multipliand) R Hannon 9 7 P Dobbs (7) 6
2	511-4	DOCTOR SPIN (16) (D) (Anthony Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 9.6 Pat Eddery 3
3	4165-3	DAMALIS (21) (D) (Learn & Tony Ferguson) E Aleion 9 0
•	2550-5	SAPHIRE (21) (D) (Mrs Marian Rogers) C Booth 9 0
,	013-0	AEGEAN FLAME (9) (D) (Theotoxids Sout) B Meshan 8.5
,	65m-Q	ONES ENOUGH (21) (D) (Heart Of The South Racing (3)) G L Moore 8 4M Roberts 9
7	31-334	PRINCE PROSPECT (21) (Maurice Parker) Mrs L States 8.4
•	51520-	PETROVNA (207) (D) (Dr Susan Barres) P Galigan 8 4 \$ Sanders 1 B
•	140-65	MEDHISH TWO (21) (J Morton, Mrs. J Cowley) P Mischell 8 4

num weight: Bst 4fb. True handicap weights: Ones Enough 8st 3tb, Prance Prospect 8st 2fb, Petrovna 7st 126,. Michish Two 7st 10b. BETTING: 7-2 Demells, 4-1 Saphire, 5-1 Prince Prospect, 5-1 Doctor Spin, 7-1 Light The Ro Aegeen Flame, 8-1 Ones Enough, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

This combination of a stiff 5f on soft ground is ideal for SAPHIRE, who can make the journey from Yorkshire worthwhile. The front-running peir Light. The Rocket and Damalis could find it lough to heing on under today's conditions and a bigger threat may be Doctor Splin, who ran well after a long absence on his reappearance.

2.50 BREWERS FAYRE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE C4 (CLASS C) £20,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £13,851 212221 DIMES (25) (C) (T Chappel, T Curry, D Michols & J Blackwell) P Nichols 7 11 10.1 Tazzard purple and white diamonds, white skeves, purple armides and star on white cap dark blue and pink (quartered), striped sleeves DARK STRANGER (FR) (7) (D) (Terry Neil) M Pipe 8 10 6 whee, large red spots and armiets, quartered cap -123F2 FANFARON (FR) (21) (D) (Ette Racing Club) C Egenton 6 10 2 white, large black spots, black cap

232U21 WINSFORD HILL (19) (D) (The Dominion Four) | Williams 8 10 0 R Johnson

yellow, black triple diamond

- 5 declared fination welcht: 10s. True handican weicht: Windord Hill 9st 118: BETTING: Evens Dines, 4-1 Andswephi, 9-2 Dark Stranger, 6-1 Fantaron, 10-1 Winstord Hill 998" The Land Agent 7 10 9 M A Fitzgerald 4-1 (J Mulins) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE Dines: Usually front-runner but was very slow to jump off last time, when going on to beat Circus Star for his second 2m win at this course. Untested beyond 2m. Acts on any going Andsuephi: Looked useful at around 2m4t first and latest starts this term, winning at V canton (soft) and short-headed by Cheerful Aspect at Warwok (good). Carried out third run Derk Stranger: Three times a winner at this sort of trip this term, in two novice handicaps and then easily in 3-runner receat Ascot (good to firm) in April. Pain badly at Ayr 10 days later Fanfaron: Fine chance on first two British starts, an easy win at Market Rasen and second to Hoth Extress at Kempton (both 2m4), soft). Desappointing since, though 3m2) too far latest Winsford Hill: Not quite so good yet as he was over hurdles. 5 lengths second to Royal Toast at Towcester (2m. good to soft) before justifying 6-4 (avouritism at Huntingdon (2m4), good) VERDICT; Dines has jumped well to win twice over this course already this season, but that was over two miles and there is a doubt about his effectiveness ov today's tro, Given Dark Stranger's bad run last Saturday and that Winsford Hill has a suff task on his chase form, the two to trouble Dines are Fanfaron, who is thrown in on his best form, and ANSUEPHI, the most reliable option after his sound effort

LEICESTER

HYPERION

Course is 2m SE of city off A6 Leicester station (London, St Pancras - Sheffield

ine) 2m. ADMISSION: Club £13 Tatterselis £10 (OAPs £6) Picnic car pari-£25 admits

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ LEADING TRAINERS: J Dunlop 24-137 (18%), R Hennon 24-157 (15.3%), H Cecil 16-63 (25.4%), P Cole 14-109 (12.6%), B Hills 13-68 (191%), Sir M Stoute 12-66 (21.4%) ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettori 34-124 (27.4%), Pet Eddery 27-133 (20.3%), K Fallon

20-128 (156%), G Carter 16-136 (118%), Dane O'Neill 14-114 (12.3%), T Quinn 14-148 (95%)

TONGUE STRAPS: Adobe Moonshift (330), Ghazzi (400), Tumbleweed Ridge (430).

2.00 CARDINAL RACING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 6f Penalty Value £4,309

04000- PARISIAN LADY (210) (D) (AM Services) A Newcombe 4 9 9 S Whited 23400- WELTON ARSENAL (193) (D) (Pauton Bicocstock) I, Bishoo 7 9 6 N Pollard (3) 19

3235-4 MADMUN (19) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) M Tregoring 5.9.3. . . .

233261 DCKER (7) (D) (J Teasciate) Mrs N Macautey 5 10 0 Dean McKerown 20 00034 PURRE CONCODENCE (1821 (Assertance Los) W Musson 4 9 12 K Fation 6 0000 STAND TALL (173) (CD) (BF) (Chris Hardy) Lady Hernes 7 9 11 K Darley 12 10000' CHARLIE SILLETT (538) (D) (Lichn Silett) B Hills 7 9 10 A Eddery (5) 8

D4600- TOP BANANA (220) (D) (Henry Candy) H Candy 8 9 0 Nicola Wright (7) 9

(2053 MALLIA (15) (D) (H T Duckin) T D Barron 6 8 8 R Cochrane 18 B 11500 SHARP SCOTCH (7) (J J Devaney) D Certal 6 8 6 N Cellan (5) 7 50000 VICE PRESIDENTIAL (196) (C Cartons Ltd) J Gren 4 8 4 F Norton 1 042126 STRAT'S QUEST (14) (D) Lack Blumence) D Arbuthnot 5 7 10 A Nicholls (5) 21 V

40000 RAMBOLD (170) (D) (Ron Cofins) N Berry 87 10 ... N Cartisle 3 5400-6 NEWLANDS CORNER (11) (D) (The Johy Skolars) J Aleituras 67 10 ... A Polli (3) 15 B - 21 declared -Minimum weight 7st 10th, True handicaps weights. Strat's Ouest 7st 9th, Rambold 7st 9th, Newlands BETTING: 6-1 Madmun, 7-1 Mailia, 8-1 Ocker, Compradora, 10-1 Pips Song, Newlands Corner,

FORM VERDICT Today's ground will pose no problems for COMPRADORE, who shaped well on her

reappearance at Kempton and may be able to reverse placings with Madmun (fourth)

on today's different going. A market move for Parislan Lady, who is well treated on

her best form, would be interesting white Mattia and Stand Tall have also to be re-

2.30 KNIPTON HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added C4

can trice validay cross belts, coller and cults, salped cap

rea and light titue disboto, light blue sieeves, quantered cap

whate, burge new spoop and armilets, quartered cap

dank green

royal blue, red star, white skewes red stars, royal blue cap, red star - 9 declared -

BETTING: 5-2 Backcloth, 4-1 Luz Bay. 5-1 Turtle Valley, 6-1 Red May, 7-1 Royal Measure, 8-1 Sir

write; red seams strond sleeves, hooped cap
OH-0 BAISSE D'ARGENT (9) (Winning Orde Racing Cuto) D Cosgrove 97 A McGlone 2 80

505-1 LUZ BAY (19) (S M De Zoete) R Cherhon 97 . . .

purple, orange steves, orange cap, purple ster 0646- SIR ECHO (FR) (169) IP A Deall H Candy 9.6

50-4 RED MAY (12) (Terry Neth) R Hannon 93

340545 ZOLA (24) (M G Quern) M Quern 7 10

Feho 10-1 Baisse D'Arbett, 20-1 others

Minetum weight, 7st 10th, True randicaps weight, Jole 7st 6to

564 ROYAL MEASURE (16) (The Royal Parmership) B R Milman 9 3

45026 TURTLE VALLEY (5) (Cazanove Clear Height Racing) S Dow 90

Slack, grey armiess, grey cap 530 MISCHEFF (16) (H R H Prince Fahrd Salmari) P Cole 8 12

T Sprake 5

T Cluden 5 88

M Fenton 7 84

Dame O Notil 6 90

P Doe (3) 1 98

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5f to 1m especially on soft ground.

Right-hand, undulating course, with a straight mile.

car and four occupants. Free racecards. CAR PARK: Free .

5.05 Mayo

5.35 Tawwag

4.00 Birth Of The Blues

4.30 Gaelic Storm

2.00 Top Banana (nb)

3.00 Hoh Discovery

3.30 Homestead

STALLS: Stands side

2.30 BACKCLOTH (nap)

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).

■ FAVOURITES: 181-593 (305%)

RI INKERED FIRST TIME: Zola (visored, 2.30).

12-1 Stand Tall, Sharp Scotch, Strat's Quest, 14-1 others 998. Meeting attandoned due to waterlogging

spected in a difficult-looking opener for puritiess.

WHITBREAD GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (A) £100,000 3m 5f 110yds £57,400 1-1F80 (Grade 3) (A) £100,000 3m 5f 110yds £57,400 (Grade 3) (A) £100,000 (Grade 3) (Grade 3)

لمكذا من الاحل

Mannum weight: 10st Two handicap weights: Fire Thyre 9st 13th, The Outback Vay 9st 13th, Bobbyjo 9st 10th, Beny's Boy 9st 10th, The Lest Fing 9st 10th, Fire Thyre 9st 13th, The Outback Vay 9st 10th, Carbon Gold 9st 2th, Europy 9st 9th, Major Bell 9st 7th, Carbon Gold 9st 2th, BETTRIG: 3-1 Bobbyjo, 8-1 Bettry's Boy, 10-1 Baronet, Malnier, 12-1 Bose Doyle, Natrithen Lad, The Dutback Way, 14-1 Fine Thyre, 16-1 Europy, General Wolfe, 20-1 Callisco Bay, The Last Fing, 23-1 Cotonel In Chest, Court Mediody, Major Bell, 33-1 Carbon Gold, Senor El Betrutti, Strath Royal 1996: Call It A Day 8 10 10 A Maguer 8-1 (D Nicholson) 19 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

General Wolfe: Haydock (and soft-ground) specialist. Found conditions too fast in National and lailed off behind Bobbylo and now 9to worse. Has new jockey Senor El Betrutti: Non-stayer in Gold Cup after keeping on in 2nd to Teeson Mill at Ascot (2m3f). Smart on his day over shorter and hard to fancy at trip. Boss Doyle: Smart novice and highly tried against Dorars Pride and Florida Pearl since his defeat by Strath Royal at Wetherby and his 30-length 4th to Teeson Mill in Honnessy, 8th lower mark here but stamma for a worry. Baronet: Lest year's Scottish National winner and 4m11 winner at Cheltenham in January. Rain badly at Utitoselist and early casualty at Amtree. Obvious hope at the trip Court Milledoth: Struck stawer and 3-length winner from Drutd's Brook in amatieurs' rice.

Remeiss. Last year's Scottish National winner and 4m11 women at Chettenham in January. Ran badiy at Utionetes and early casualty at Amtine. Obvious hope at the trop Court Melody: Slow stayer and 3-length winner from Druids Brook in amateurs' race here last mornth. 2nd to Carliste Bandio's here next time. Tasted off in this last year Strath Royal: Turned over Boss Doyle at Wetherby and kept on in 4th to Major Bell there last time. Handcapped to go dose on his best form but trip just a worry Nainthen Lad: Decent 3rd to Betry's Boy at Chettenham (4th better here) and played pormisent part for long weyn Naional. May again be tound warting for frishing pace Callisce Bay: Kept on after looking held when 3rd to Eudipe here in January but dropped away and putled up in Clever Renariks race here next time. Goes best when fresh so not without an each-way chance.

Jathib: Best over shorter trips when with Mentts Jones. Thed binkered at Chepstow (stiff task behind in The Blood) after a 15-length 6th to Betry's Boy at Chettenham. 4th better off today and a live outsider with the headgear removed Mather: Stayed well in testing ground to win at Punchestown last season. Found trip too short over National fences (8th to Listen Timmy over 2m6). Sure to go well Colonel to Chiefe. Broke blood vessel on reappearance and then putled up at Doncaster two months later, both runs over shorters. Smart in noxice days and could just to better for change of scenery (first start for Paul Micholis). Fine Thyne: Putled up behind Betry's Boy at Chettenham but can be considered after finishing a 5-length 2nd in this race last year.

The Outback Way, 4th to Listen Timmy at Aintree after taking badly on run-in at Chettenham when 4th to Majadou. Suspect stayer at this trip Bobbyjo: Irish National winner test year and impressive National winner at Amtree when a stone out of handicap. Prefers decent ground and great chance being just the boil bid disty when clear at the final fence.

Bebly's Boy: Chettenham Festival winner from Island Chief (lad run-i

VERDICT: BOBBYJO lines up with a fantastic chance of emulating Mr Frisk, who landed the Grand National and Whitbread double nine years ago. The dark horse is Jathib, still to win for Martin Pipe after the switch from Meritta Jones, and a galding who could be anything over this long trip.

4.10 CLASSIC TRIAL (Group 3) (CLASS A) £60,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £39,870 royal blue, white epaulets, striped cap 21- SOMBARD (USA) (S02) (H R H Prince Fatrd Selman) P Cole 8 ft ______ | Fortune 4 703

| March | Mar

Form GUIDE

Festival Hall: 5 lengths third to Mus-If in Group 1 at the Curragh (fm, good to soft).

8-11 tallure in Cork maidenbefore narrow winner of Group 3 at the Curragh (fm, soft) Adresen: Nashwan half-brother to Hernands. Won conditions stakes at Lelecester and issted race (by 1), length from Forest Shadow, having travelled strongly to lead over 2f out) at Newmarket, both over tim2f on soft surface. Im4f should suf him well Bombard: Touched off close home by Distant Moon on debut here (good to soft last June, 2-7, won another 7f maiden at Goodwood (good) two weeks later by 3 Conflict: Got up late to win 7-runner maden at Lelecester (7f, good to soft), 25-1, 5% lengths sothio Dehoush in listed race at Kempton (fm, good), soon pushed along Dehoush: Promise over 7n as 2yo. 10-1, to ground entering sinalgh but finished strongly when warrang Kempton listed race by length from Wellow. Will stry thrat? Familiastic Lights Won five-numer races for 7f maiden and fm conditions stakes (by 1), length from Aespoy) on sound surface here in August, Failed to Improve on that when 2½ lengths last of 3 to Mutashab on softer ground in Goodwood isted race. Glamis: 1/L-length second to Mutashab in Group 2 Royal Lodge at Ascort (m. soft) penultimate 2yo start. Lett Peace Of Mind 5 lengths beford at Kempton (fm2), good) Tumbleweed Quertet: Easily best form when third, about 2 lengths behind Auction House and Commander Collins, in Group 2 at Doncaster (7t good) in September. Only seventh in Kampton listed race and fm2 stakes at Newburry this season. FORM GUIDE VERDICT: Festival Hait, Adnaan, Bombard and GLAMFS are entered in the Derby. The obvious one on form is Gitume, second in a Group 2 last season and clearly in good heart again this term judged on the way he put five lengths and more between himself and four rivate in the final furtions at Kempton three weeks ago.

4.45 GORDON RICHARDS STAKES (Group 3) (A) £30,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £19,200 C4 MESI - ZOMARADAH (1889, ID) (Sreikh Michammed Obad 4) Makasumi L. Oumen 490 L. Delton 1, 114 yellow, large black spots and spots on cap 10046- RISK MATERIAL (189) (D) (BF) (Castatids Synd) A F O'Bren (N) 4 8 13 _ M J Kinene 6 111 light green clark green charter, light green cap 16424- DARK SHELL (219) (CD) (Lord Weinstock) Sr M Stoute 4 8 10 ______ Fortune 9 111 nyel blue, yellow chevron, yellow cap, myel blue spots 6040 DIAMOND WHITE (10) (D) (Peer P Scott) M Ryen 4 8 7 R Price 8 170 black, while diamond, diamonds on sleeves, black cap, whee diamond

BETTING: 11-4 Generous Roet, 4-1 Risk Material, Zonuradah, 5-1 Secret Saver, 7-1 Dank Shelf, 19-1 Eventog World, 14-1 Prince Of Donals, 29-1 Dynamicm, 33-1 Diamond White 1998. Germano 5 8 10 M Hills 8-1 (G Wragg) drawn (5) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

Zomaradah: Successful last season in Italian Calis (111, soft) at Milan and E.P. Taylor Stakes (1m2t, firm; improved form) at Woodbrie. Below form in between. Risk Material: Has won 2 listed races and a Group 3 at 91/1m21 in Ireland. Little m-

Risk Misterial: Has won 2 listed races and a Group 3 at 91/im21 in reland. Little impact in two Group 1 events over thirst Acts on good to firm and soft. Dark Shelf: Won madden here firm2! good to soft! last June on debut. Useful form in frame in Group 3 at Goodwood, a stakes and listed race. Im21 may not suit him Dynamism: Plan twice for Henry Cecil last May, winning malden at Pilpon. Soid 7,500 gurees. 4 lengths third of 8 to Generous Plos in Kempton listed race [abo. Im21] good). Evenling World: Trained by Paul Cole last season, winning Im21 handicaps at Ling-field (good) and York (soft) in early-summer. Soft of 7 in Group 3 at Longchamp. Generous Rosk Rumer-up in listed race at Newmarks (Im on good and soft) last two starts in 1998. 10-11, won one over Im21 at Kempton on return in good style by 31/s langths from Shaya, with Dynamiem third and Damond Whate tourth. Prince Of Dealest Rough and improved last season, placed in Group 3 events (about 1721) won by Mutamam at both Haydock and Goodwood. Needed run last week secret Saver: Has had just lour races, ell in just over 2 months last term. Ante-post taroutils for the Ebor after win in 7-numer handicap at Newcastle (m41, good to soft).

Secret Saver: has hed post lost reason, or in post of a marina has terme post tervourite for the Ebor after win in 7-runner handicap at Newcastle (m41, good to soft) off 94, but was not seen again. Has potential but step back to 'm2' has to be a worry Diamond White: Useful (won handicap and two conditions contests in 1898) but fair but to find in this grade. No reason why she should turn the tables on Generous Rosi VERDICT: GENEROUS ROSI looks set for a very bold showing following his stylsh victory at Kempton and can take advantage of the 4b concession from the smart filly Zomaradah. Aidan O'Brien's Risk Material is best of the rest on form, while the

5	.15	PIZZA HUT SILVER TROPHY CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £19,200
1	65P16	SUPER TACTICS (17) (D) (H V Perry) R Ainer Ti 11 4
2	31224U	THE LAND AGENT (15) (CD) (D I Barel J Malins 8 it 4
3		BERTONE (17) (D) (Mrs Harry J Duffey) K Bailey 10 to 0 N Williamson
4	142-31	EDELIVEIS DU MOULIN (15) (D) (Robert Ogden) Miss V Williams 7 to 0 R Dunwoody
5	232248	MR STRONG GALE (37) (CD) (T Chappell, R Eddy) P Natrols 8 Ti 0 Tizzard 8
6		MICHLIGAN (15) (C) (D) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 9 tl 0 A Maguise
7		NORTHERN STARLIGHT (17) (D) (Arthur South) M Pige 8 11 0
В		SOUNDS LIKE FUN (38) (CD) (Mrs H Brown) Miss H Knight B Ti 0 B Powel
		- 8 declared -
BET	TING: 8-4	Multigers, 5-2 Edgiweis Du Moulin, 6-1 Mr Strong Gale, 13-2 Super Tactics, 7-1 North-
		12.1 Serions 16.1 The I and Scent Sounds I ike Day

FORM VERDICT

MULLIGAN deserves this chance to confirm the improvement he showed at Amtree last time. He will have to battle for the lead with Super Tactles, but he can prove the stronger and hold off Edetwels Du Moulin up the hill.

5.45 DAVID LLOYD LEISURE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £14,000 added 3YO 1m 14yds Penalty Value £8,700

FORM VERDICT

Balsox will be popular given his trainer's record in this race and tollowing his easy success on similar ground at Nottingham last month. However, BADAGARA showed plenty of courage at Newbury last week and is battle hardened in handicaps so is

FORM GUIDE

Lizz Bay: Seems suited by a stamma test and won claimer over the trip at Warwick 19 days ago, eased down to beat Turtle Valley 2 lengths but now 9th worse Baless D'Argent: Relished im when winner of 5-numer maiden at Musselburgh. Better for run at Newmarket (stiff task in 8th to Moutahddee). Longer trip to suit today Sir Echo: Promee shown in staying maderns last term. Brad for this trip but likely to be better for first start since November Backcloth: Debut 7th of 18 to Little Rock (Sandown winner yesterday) and promising 3rd to warm tsyourite Sure Dancer here (tin2!) to days ago. Fine chance in hicap Royal Measure: Outpaced over shorter trips on AW before again staying on late when 4th to Toto Caelo over C&D. Better chance in a hicap and stable in form Red May: Persan Bold filly who shaped moely on reappearance, staying on in 4th to Madein's Blush (2nd has won since) at Windsor (tin2!). Every hope over longer trip Turtle Valley: Big weight when staying on 6th to Dalby 0'r for at Windsor kell Monday. Chance to reverse earlier Warwick form with Luz Bay and has good claimer aboard Mischleft. Looked slow on debut (AW) and again over this trip. Very stiff task on turl debut here behind Algumaas in hot maden when apprentice ridden.

Zola: Modest form on AW and tired with a visor after latest poor showing behind Lucky Nemo at Folkestione

VERDICT: BACKCLOTH. all the better for an encouraging run in a maiden this

VERDICT: BACKCLOTH, all the better for an encouraging run in a maiden this month and not beaten far by yesterday's Sandown witner Little Rock last backend, will take the beating.

3	.00	WILLOUGHBY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,742
1		CACOPHONY (Gatecrasher Partnersho) S Dow 9 0
2		CALDEY ISLAND (Demok C Broomfield) D Arbuttnot 9 (L S Whitworth 1
3	0	COHAN (12) (B A Evans) B Paling 90
4	ū	FOLEY BIGTIME (16) (Foley Steelstock) M Quinn 9 0 F Nonton 14
5		GROESFAEN LAD (John Hams and Mrs San Hams) B Palang 9 0, T Sprake 11
6	2	HOH DISCOVERY (B) (D F Albort & Mr Alec Tuckerment Balding 9 0 K Fallon 3
7		KICK ON KATOUCHE (Astaire & Partners (Holdings) Ltd) K Burke 90 . N Callian (5) 13
8		NORFOLK REED (The South-Western Partnersho) R Hannon B 0
9		PAPE DIQUE (Willie McKay) K McAulifle 90M Fonton 9
10		PRETENDING (Mrs. John Lee) J Bethel 9 0 F Lynch 8
77		TRAVESTY OF LAW (Septem W Molloy) B Mineham 9 0
12		VIPEE (Floidvale Limited) A Nelleway 9 0 P Fredericts (5) 2
		topo continonti p supel . Desert D Ham SD

FORM VERDICT

g	good race at Newbury. Caldey Island could prove the most interesting of the newcomers.						
3	.30	SPRING HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,756					
1	133227)	MAGICAL SHOT (28) (BF) (J J Devaney) D Carroll 4 9 13					
2	(224D-	MUTADARRA (258) (D) (BF) (Mrs Ritz Brown) W Musson 6 9 10					
3	5/05-0	TABASCO (12) Mountainne Studi M Charmon 4 9 8					
4	40414-	SRAVE ENVOY (185) (C) (forn Burge) M Heaton-Elfa 5 9 6					
5	543621	HOMESTEAD (4) (D) (G H Shoemark) R Harron 5.8 tg					
6	2-405	NAKED OAT (11) (The Dybail Partnership) B Smart 4 B t3					
7	0000-3	ADOBE (26) (P R Kirk) W Brisbourne 4 8 10					
В	04-065	MY LEGÂL EÂGLE (5) (E G Bevan) R J Price 5 8 8					
9	06000-	LANIN (283) (Damen Croft) D Cosgrove 4 8 7					
10		GIRLIE SET (515) (G S Strooghre) Sr M Prescott 487 G Duffield 11					
11	1460£/	CROSS TALK (800) (Damani Preceson Engineering Ltd) E Wheeler 7 8 - S Carson (5) 8					
12	10000- D	BADY KNOCHT (47) (Derek D & Mrs. Jean P Clee) R Peecock 4 8 3 Martin Dwyer 1					
13	05500	MELASUS (12) (Mrs A Haynes) D Arbuthnol 7 8 1					
14	060-00	NORIE (4) (D) (Mass Debi J Woods) M Britain 5 8 0					
Б		MYSTERIUM (28) (Mrs G L Taylor) N Littmoden 57 13					
18		CAPTAIN MCCLOY (USA) (206) (D W Smith) N Berry 4 7 to					
17		HARNAGE (186) (ce Cooling Limited) P Burgoyne 4 7 to					
16	00000-0	DESIRE'S GOLD (4) (Mel Britten) M Britten 47 10					
19	04500-	MOONSHIFT (J137) (C V Less) H Colingradge 5 7 to					
		- 19 declared -					

Minutum words: 7st 10th. True hendicaps weg/ts: Harrage 7st 6th, Desire's Gold 7st 2th. Monshill 7st 1th. BETTING: 4-1 Homestead, 5-1 Brave Envoy, 6-1 Mutadarra, 8-1 Tabesco, Naked Cel., 12-1 Adobe, My Legal Esgle, Mysterium, 14-1 others y Legal Estas, Mysterium, 14-1 others
FORM VERDICT

It is hard to get away from HOMESTEAD. The selection is in form and proved he handled these conditions earlier in the week. If there is to be a surprise, it could well come from Captain McCloy, although Girlle Set will be of interest if the market speaks in her favour.

[4.00	GRANBY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3YO 1n Penalty Value £3,574
7		GHAAZI (190) (Hemden Al Mektourn) E Duniop 97
÷	66-6	NAFITH (30) (Hamdan Al Maktourn) M Tregoring 97
3		WHY WORRY NOW [23] (N Hayes) R Hannon 95 R Hughes
4	32300-	GOODWOOD JAZZ (204) (Goodwood Owners Group) J Dunlop 9 4
5	0-3200	PISCES LAD (12) (J Falvey & Mr G Williamson) S Dow 93
6	050-0	BIRTH OF THE BLUES (19) (Bob Lalement) J Duntop 8 18
7	00040-	COCKATRICE (168) (Mrs David Sett) D Morre 8 12
8	04000-	PEBBLE MOON (202) (Mrs Christine Stevenson) M Jarvis 8 11 L Stoker (7) 13
9	500-4	WONDERFUL MAN (23) (F J Sansbury) M Heston-Ells 85 A Daly (2) 1
10	50-0	BONELLI (24) (Lotal Partnersho) J Arnold 8 4
17	62240-	DRUREDGE BAY (136) (M G St Chinton) M Channon 84 A Mackey !
12	00-000	ABLE PETE (16) (Alex. Gome) D Cosgrove 8 2
13	00055-	PURPLE DAWN (175) (Mrs Angels Speyer) J S Moore 8 0 A Nicholis (5)
14	0600-	NORTHGATE (206) (Mel Britain) M Britain 7 12
15	433650	MALCHIK (5) (CD) (I G Messari) P Howing 7 (0 R Brisland (7)

- 15 declared Monatum weight: 7st 10th True bandcape weight Machak 7st 9th.
BETTING: 5-1 Goodwood Jazz, 6-1 Why Worry Now, 7-1 Ghead, Wonderful Man, 8-1 Na6th, 10-1 Places Lad, Birth Of The Blues, 12-1 others A Clark 3 78 A Mackay 4 V 62 FORM VERDICT

Three-year-old only hendicaps are difficult races to assess at this time of year, and with a plethora of unexposed contenders this race is no exception, WONDERFUL MAN ran well enough on his reappearance in what might well have been an above-average marden handcap at Masseburgh, with the probability of improving somewhat it settling better. He is narrowly preferred to Pebble Moon, one of many dangers.

4.30 LEICESTERSHIRE STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 7f Penalty Value £18,360 royal blue, white charron, light blue cap 035/0- WIND CHEETAH (375) (Charaley Park Stud) Sr M Stoute 5 B 12 P Robinson 10 110

10 21/10 GRAZIA (258) (Cyril Humphre) Str M Strute 5 8 12 ... P Robbiston 10 110 red, white sash, royal bits citp

10 21/10 GRAZIA (258) (Cyril Humphre) Str M Prescott 4 8 9 G Duffield 5 713 brown and green strpes, brown seleves and cap

— 10 declared —

BETTING: 7-2 Grazia, 9-2 Andreyev, 5-1 White Heart, 6-1 Gaellic Storm, Warningford, 15-2 Trans Island, 14-1 Jimmy Too, Tumbleweed Ridge, 16-1 Cratan Gift, Wind Cheetah FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Andreyery: All whis last term over 8" but stays 7". Likes out in the ground so fine chance with a run under his belt (badly drawn when 4th to Tedburrow at Doncaster, 6"). Tumbleweed Ridge: Over his optimum the and acts in soft ground Badly drawn on responsivement in Newmarket hosp (won the race in 1998). Best Wizard King in a Group 3 at Leopardstown last June.

Cristan 6"th: Yet to win beyond 6!. 4-length 2nd to Bold Edge at Newmarket after his 10-length 4th to Warningford at Warwick (7"). Stiff task on same terms.

Gaelle Storm: Smart heurdicasper who best Warningford (2th better) just over a length at York in October. Copes well with soft ground and return to 7" will suit judged on latest 3nd to Nignishe at Transk.

Jimmy 70c: Fadded when unplaced to Night Shot in Doncaster hicap (5f). Goes well in soft ground. Held by Geelic Storm on two runs last season but Kleren Fallon booked Trans Island: Very smart juvenile and 2nd to Desert Prince in Free Hicap prior to a disqualification in a Group 2 in Italy Unraced since May (8th in Group 2 in Cologne) but stable's Al Azhar went close at Sandown yesterday.

Warningford: All wins at this trip, the latest on reappearance from Granny's Pet (Cretan Giff 4th) at Warwick. Well exposed in Group 2 over this trip last term.

White Hearts Winner of hot 7! hicap at Ascot last season (Geelic Storm, Tumbleweed Ridge, Warningford behind). Listed race (m) winner at Doncaster on reappearance and evers to more suitable trip after latest 8th to Shive at Newmarket (Im).

Wind Cheetah: Lightly raced since juvenile win. Chances on 3rd to Ramooz as 3-y-o but unraced since 7th to Tedburrow a year ago (6!). Worth keeping on right side Grazzla: Very pacey Sharpo filly who was impressive at Newburry on her reappearance last turn of foot and leading chance is reappear and her only other start wen to foot and leading chance in wealash Group 3.

VERDICT: GRAZIA won in style first time up last season and her only other start was in a Group One in France against older rivals. Wind Cheetah is the interesting outsider from a stable that had a nice winner at Sandown yesterday. Andreyev was badly drawn on his reappearance and can do better

5.05	REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (Div i) £5,250 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £4,023
0-	DRAKENSBERG (218) (Ars Berta Lazarus) Lady Herres 4 9 10 T Spraka 11
. 00-	THIRM (184) (Masset P Cower, \$ Daniels & B Beale) N Berry 4 9 to R Perham 5
0.40	YOUNG MARCIUS (USA) (16) (Mrs Alson Sikman) h. Morgan 5 9 10 R Cochrane 7
ŀ	COY DEBUTANTE (J251) (Flying Temple Partnership) W Musson 5.95 S Curtis (7) 4
44	MAMA-SAN (14) (Andy J Smith) N Calacter 4 9 5 G Duffield 6

SETTING: 9-4 Silver Robin, 7-2 Bisyo, 11-2 Keebaar, 6-1 Coy Debutante, Evenham, 16-1 Oralege, berg, Strindberg, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Luca Cumani has his 3yos in excellent form and this boks straightforward for Derby entry SILVER ROBIN, who has the makings of a decent colt. There is little in the way of solid form against him and he could go off very short indeed if there is no confidence behind any of the newcomers as the Occi representative Maryo looked ordinary last autumn.

5.35 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (Div II) £5,250 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,997

BETTING: 9-4 England's Rose, 4-1 Tewney, 7-1 Seck, 8-1 Brevity, First Impression, Follow That Drawn, Krisalight, 18-1 others

FORM VERDICT

With newcomers from the yards of Henry Cecl. Ed Dunkop and Luca Cumani in the Ine-up
the betting here will clearly be arginiscent. But TAWWAG showed the ability to win a race
of this nature lest year, comes from a stable in form and a Derby entry suggests he is held











Age of nostalgia in close-up and super slo-mo

HOW MANY great sporting moments have you witnessed in the flesh? Not many. How many have you seen on the telly? Every single one, I bet. Most people's recollections of such occasions are framed by the TV screen. It's nostalgia in close-up and super slo-mo, embellished with opera scores, indy bands and techno beats.

My memories of the 1991 European Cup-Winners' Cup final include seeing my brotherin-law caught on camera just before kick-off in Rotterdam Cup final, I watched it with draped, for some reason, in the Stars and Stripes, leering ecstatically at the camera. That is desperately wanted Benfica to as much a part of my experience of the game as Mark Hughes's

The last time Manchester United were in the European the road a Liverpool fan, but as



SPORT ON TV

David Parry, my next-door neighbour, an Everton fan who win, his dad, who also supported Everton but was behind United because they were English, and Uncle John from down

been about England a couple of had hot dinners. years earlier. My godmother went to the match with her friend, Mary (Shay Brennan's sister, as it happens), who had to be passed over the heads of the crowd when she fainted. She saw none of that match. Her memory of it is restricted to the first-aid room at Wembley. I remember it, like most people, in

The point about all this is that on Wednesday night, a ball of clammy-handed tension in front of the TV I felt guilty that I wasn't there in Turin, guilty that I hadn't been in Rotterdam eight years ago, guilty that I probably won't be in Barcelona in a few weeks, guilty that despite supporting United for 32 years, I have seen them in the flesh con-

gritty, grainy black and white.

I think the point I am making

is that for most people, especially these days, football is an exclusively televisual experience. It was appropriate that Rupert Murdoch tried to buy United, as it was the historic Sky deal in the first place that stumped up the cash, pumped up the volume and plumped up the club till it was ripe for takeover. And it was the consequent explosion of wall-to-wall coverage that enabled United. who had always enjoyed plenty of support outside the city anyway, to extend their fan base to anywhere a dish could be in-

Why else are there legions of parents all over the country tearing their hair out because

rather than their local maestro? Blame Murdoch. Not that it's just a United phenomenon there are probably young Gunners in Goole and young

Chelseaites in Chester. Though I was the son of Mancunians, they weren't interested in football and we lived 50 miles away, so it was only because of TV that I became a United fan when, one Sunday afternoon a couple of weeks after my dad had died. I saw them beat West Ham 6-1 to take the title in 1967. Football rushed in to fill the void (cf Nick Hornby and how football helped him deal with his parents' divorce) and I, was enslaved for life, my development arrested at that precise moment in time. (A lifelong soft spot for Celtic was established

patriotic about United as he had siderably fewer times than I've the kids love Becks and Giggsy around the same time when claimed, "They've seen the Juthey beat Internazionale so magnificently in the European Cup final.)

It was probably Brian Moore commentating at Upton Park for The Big Match, though it might have been Gerald Sinstadt, who was Granada's main man in those days. We could have done with Moore on Wednesday because although Clive Tyldesley is a trier, he lacks a yard of pace at the highest level (mind you, so did Moore, especially in his dotage).

Tyldesley seems to be trying to establish himself as a maker of memorable phrases, although I was left wondering if he was thinking on his feet or reading a few bon mots he prepared earlier. When United equalised on Wednesday, he ex-

ventus away goal, and they've raised it!" I can't decide whether that's brilliant or terrible. Probably the latter. To single out Tyldesley is unfair, though: Motty and Barry "The Great" Davies apart, terrestrial football commentating is at the prover-

Still, at least Tyldesley isn't Frank Skinner The West Bromsupporting comedian does an extremely funny stand-up routine, I am told, and his off thecuff jokes were usually the best part of Fantasy Football League, especially when it ran out of ideas. But these ingredients clearly do not equip him to be a chat-show host, as the secand in the series of The Frank Skinner Show (BBC1, Thursday) cruelly demonstrated.

bial all-time low.

His poor victim, Alan Hansen, came over - not surprisingly - as spiky, bringing Skinner to a merciful halt at one point over the host's preoccupation with Hansen taking a glass of fruit cordial to bed with

On and on Skinner banged, to looks of increasingly withering contempt from the gimleteyed pundit. I kept turning over; squirming, then turning back to see he was still going on about it. It was dim, dumb, embarrassing witless, brainless, pointless and about as funny as those Fantasy Football sketches where they dressed up as Saint and Greavsie (yes, it really was that bad). Whoever is in charge of these things, please, please, Give This Man Another Series.

4.29

2:5

HARRIER

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Paragraphic Control

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8.25

2.

Moya's forlorn

BUSINESS WAS booming, on and off the courts, at the Monte Carlo Open yesterday, with the unseeded Jerome Golmard, of France, advancing to the semifinals by defeating Spaniard cramping, but the winners kept Carlos Moya, the title holder, top seed, and French Open champion, 6-7, 6-3, 6-0.

Another impressive statistic duel was won by Felix Mantilla. granting television, marketing and licensing rights for the ATP Tour to International Sporting Leisure Worldwide. who have provided a similar service for the Olympic Games and the Fifa World Cup.

Moya, who spent two weeks as the world No 1 in March, has lost each of his three matches against Golmard, a left-hander from Dijon, ranked No 25 in the world, who lived up to Tim Henman's description of him as unorthodox, but effective".

Even so, Henman, who has suffered three times at the have been surprised how ineffective Mova was in the final set. particularly since Golmard took an injury time-out for treatment to his right thigh. The Spaniard cut a forlorn figure, receiving a code violation for hitting the ball into the stands after losing the first three games.

"I did that in frustration."

BY JOHN ROBERTS in Monte Carlo

coming. I've not seen a player hit the lines as much as he did." An all-Spanish quarter-final

was the confirmation of a who repeated his victory 2750m 10-year agreement against Albert Costa in last year's Bournemouth final. although in tighter circumstances. Mantilla had his first match point in the second set, but was taken to a tie-break Costa, who led 3-0 in the third set went on to create four match points at 5-3. This time he was the one taken to a tiebreak, which Mantilla secured 7-4 with his second match point, winning 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 after two hours and 46 minutes.

In today's semi-finals, Mantilla will play the Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, the 1997 French Open champion, who ended encouraging first visit to Monte Carlo, 6-3, 6-3.

Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski are least effective during the clay-court season, both losing in the second round here this week after byes in the opening round. Henman, who gave a creditable performance while losing in three sets to Fer-Moya said. "Golmard was nando Meligeni in the singles,

ADD MADD RAV defence swiss watcher

Spain's Felix Mantilla goes full stretch during the 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 defeat of his compatriot Alberto Costa in the quarter-finals of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday

clay-court doubles semi-final yesterday, partnering the of the Czech Republic. Frenchman Olivier Delaitre. They defeated the Italian Davis Cup pair, Andrea Gaudenzi and ATP Tour's Super 9 tourna-

C-Harry

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Make Ready 7.30 Over The Moon 8.00

Noukari 8.40 Majestic 9.25 Samwar 9.50

007-10 MBSS HT (67) (CD) Miss G Kalleway 4 T0 0 S Whithworth 7
47231 TROJAN GREL (14) (CD) Miss G Wilcon 395 ... N Callan (5) 12
16U-27 ANTONIA'S DOUBLE (7) (D) J Barry 48 4 G Carter 1
00004 HAPPY DAYS AGAIN (11) (D) J White 16 8 3 A Mackey 9
3450 J (24) MBSS (B) (C) (D) J Neville 5 8 3 A Mackey 9
3450 J (24) MBSS (B) (D) D Shew 5 7 10 J Finning 13 B
64001 HEAVENLY MISS (B) (D) D Shew 5 7 10 Date Glisson 6
50003 HISSE N SHINE (72) (D) C Cyar 5 7 10 Date Glisson 6
00003 MARJORE ROSE (14) (CD) R Bruterton 6 7 10 A Pail (3) 5 B
67000 C STRUTT ATMAC SOURCE (10) (CD) R Bruterton 6 7 10 A Pail (3) 5 B
67000 C STRUTT ATMAC SOURCE (10) (CD) R Bruterton 6 7 10 A Pail (3) 5 B
67000 C STRUTT ATMAC SOURD (16) 8 B Revenue 4 7 of C Cyars (7) 10

10 USZISS SCINTILATING SOUND [14] S Bowring 4 7 to .C Cogan (7) 10 11 50-000 MAYDORD (14) (C) (D) W Brisbourne 6 7 to .P M Qubrn (7) 4 2 -06206 OPENING RANGE (49) (CD) N Borry 8 7 to .A Netholb (5) 3 13 50000 LADY SENSON (170) W Brisbourne 6 7 to .D Memagh (5) 11

Minimum weight: 7st 10th, True handrap weights: Rise N Shine 7st 9th, Mer-jone Rose 7st 7th, Samullating Sound 7st 7th, Meydono 7st 2th, Opening Range

june none vis rib, Somilitaing Sound 7st 7th, Meydono 7st 2th, Opening Range 7st, Lady Bartson 6st 11th. BETTING: 3-1 Trojan Girl, 4-1 Heaventy Mise, 5-1 Mate Ready, 6-1 Rise 'N Shine, 10-1 Mass Hit, Light Breeze, 12-1 Happy Days Again, Scinti-lating Sound, 16-1 others

STALLS: 7t & 1m 6t - outside: remainder - inside

at least advanced to his first now play Don Johnson, of the burg, Rome, Montreal, Cincin-plus the French, United States

ISL Worldwide will focus on increasing the exposure of the the first-set tie-break 8-6, and

United States, and Cyril Suuk. nati, Stuttgart and Paris, and and Australian Opens the year-end ATP Tour Championship, which is due to move from Hanover after this season. These are the most important Biscayne, Monte Carlo, Ham- four Grand Slams: Wimbledon,

ISL Worldwide's managing director. Daniel Beauvois, spoke about creating a specific look for the Super 9s and link-Diego Nargiso 7-6, 6-3, winning ments, at Indian Wells, Key men's tournaments outside the ing them with "blue chip global companies".

process of selling their Super 9 event at Key Biscayne, Florida, to Mark McCormack's International Management Group for a reported £18.75m. The tournament, formerly

The Buchholz brothers, sponsored by Lipton, becomes Butch and Cliff, are in the the Ericsson Open from next vear. It is intended that the Buchholzs, who built the tournament over 15 years, will continue to organise the event for the next five years at least.

Channon has Royal Ascot in his sights

TWO OF Mick Channon's best two-year-olds go on display in the next fortnight and the Kingsdown trainer has Royal Ascot on his mind as he sends the recent winners Ma Yoram and Cotton House to Ascot and Salisbury respectively.

While it is nearly impossible for the trainer to replace Bint Allayl, who died in the winter, the trainer sees both Ma Yoram and Cotton House as possibles for the Royal meeting.

Of Ma Yoram, who made all to score easily on his debut at Kempton on Easter Saturday, Derby Day." Channon observed: "We expected him to do it as smoothly as that and the next step will give him experience of Ascot as I intend running him in the

Garter Stakes there on 28 April." "Cotton House is a pretty good filly and she's in great on in leaps and bounds since her debut win at Warwick. The furlong sprint."

plan is to take her to Salisbury on 2 May and then go for the Queen Mary."

"He did it like a real profes-

sional," Channon said. "But he wants six furlongs and Γve decided to hang on to him until the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom on

Golden Silca the go ahead for a crack at the 1,000 Guineas following her second to Wince in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury. "Richard Quinn said we'd have beaten the winner if Golden Silca had settled better heart. While she might not be and not got first run on her. It another Bint Allayi she's come wasn't an ideal preparation as she jumped out as if it was a six-

SANDOWN Going: Good to Soft (Soft in places) 2.05: 1. LITTLE ROCK (L. Dettor) 7-2: 2. Grand Sonnel 50-1; S. Casino Royale 12-1 5 ran. 4-9 lav Ballet Master (4th), 2 h, st-hd. (Sr Michael Stoute, Newmarket), Tota: £440;



One Channon-trained twoyear-old who will be resting on his laurels for a few weeks is Alfailak, so convincing on his introduction to racing at the Newmarket Craven meeting.

Channon has also given

\$180 \$410 DF: \$6870 CSF: \$8993 NF:

DF: £7350, CSF: £15450 NR: Bus Veivel,
1-18: PLIZZER (M Hills) 6-1; 2. Haimehera 2-1; 3. Passion For Life 1-4 fay; 4.
At Large 12-1 17 ran, 3, 2, (8 Hills, Lambourn),
Rest 15371; £160, 6350, £160, £250, DF: £3570
CSF: £655 \$\$ Tricast: £22738, NR: Brimstone,
Dr. Murgo Park,
Jackpet Not won; £16,84685 carried forward
in Sandown Inday,
Place pot: £37050, Quadpot: £3660,
Place 6: £1,5864, Place 5: £23620,

RACING RESULTS

FORM VERDICT Trojen Giri has such a good record here and must be respected, but she faces a well-handicapped mail in HAPPY DAYS AGAIN, who had some decent surf form aff much higher marks lest sea-

7.30 DRESSAGE APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES (F) £3,000 added 1m 100yds 400230 BE WARNED (18) (C) (D) J Pearce 8 10 0 A Poll 9 V

— 12 declared — BETTING: 9-4 Hamiltel Led, 7-2 John Bowdler Music, 4-1 Over The Moon, 9-2 Be Warred, 10-1 Landrium, 18-1 Sir Walter, 20-1 Liste Rouge, North Ardar, Laurendian, Sumbriva, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

SE WARMED regularly performs to a level of ability which will make him hand to beet here and his long-standing association with An-lonio Polit is a bonus. Hannabel Lad has more to do then when landing a seller here last time, but is open to improvement and should go well.

8.00 JOAN CHALK MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 1m 6f 166yds

| C.J.P.C.S. C/ E.S., DOU SIGUECT TITL OF TOO YOUR
| 0.3035 STEAMROLLER STANLY (21) K Burke 6 10 0 ... N Callan (5) 7
| 2.1:24 NOUFARI (PR) (42) (CD) R Hollinshead 8 9 4 P M Callan (7) 5
| 3.0:3606 PHELOSOPPRC (J28) (CD) (RF) Mrs L Javel 5 8 3 Gorder 2
| 4.0000 CHEEK TO CHEEK (250) (C) C Cyses 5 8 3 Gorder 2
| 4.43352 NOUKARI (30) P Extra 6 8 2 J F Egen 3
| 6 ... 422 QUEZON CITY (14) (ED) N LUBrocker 7 7 10 R Thomas (7) 6 8
| 7 ... 1005 EVEZIO RUFO (14) (CD) N LUbrocker 7 7 10 R Thomas (7) 6 8
| 7 ... 10 Resrices weight: Evapo Rufo (at 110. BETTING: 5-2 Quezon City, 7-2 Steamroller Stanly, 4-1 Noukari, 6-1 Noutani, Choek To Chaek, 7-1 Philosophic, 25-1 Evezio Rufo

FORM VERDICT

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low to middle best for 7t. Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.	Marinum weight: 731 1080. Taus hamicag weight: Evapo Rufo (at 1110. BETTING: 5-2 Quazan Cây, 7-2 Steamnolles Starly, 4-1 Noukari, 6-1 No- ulani, Choek To Cheek, 7-1 Philosophic, 25-1 Evazio Rufo
■ Course is N of town on A+48. Wolverhampton station Im. ADMISSION: Curb 220; Tartersails 510 (C2 off for OAP members of Diamond Club). CAR PARK: free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS	FORM VERDICT QUEZON CITY appeals as a horse who has a good deel more to offer in this type of contest.
LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead 70-596 (11.7%), N Littmoden 54-395 (13.6%), M Johnston 47-251 (18.7%), LEADING JOCKEYS: S Sanders 43-311 (13.8%), Dazh	8.40 SHOW JUMPING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 4f
McKeown 38-315 (12.4%), J Weaver 37-211 (17.5%). #FAVOURITES: 482-1530 (32.2%). #FONGUE STRAPS: Sweet Magic (9.25), Ding Dong (9.25), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Samwar (9.25), Storm Cat (9.50), The Woodcock Ivisored, 9.50).	1 GO MAN (J19) P Evens 5 9 73
7.00 EQUESTRIAN HANDICAP (CLASS E) 53,500 added filles & mares 5f	6 3400 FRISKY POX (4) R Hulinshead 5 9 8

10 20-25 NATHAN'S HERO (78) Mss A Stokal 3 8 7 C Lowther 9
- 10 declared BETTING: 5-4 Star Fantasy, 4-1 Majestic, 5-1 Frisky Fox, 6-1 Nathan's
Hero, 10-1 Minty, 20-1 Epworth, 25-1 Crack Stot, Esterelle, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

be dogmatic with a horse who has placed so often without win-ning. Bumper winner Crack Shot could go well if taking to sand

9.25 PUISSANCE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 5f

- 10 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Sweet Magic, 5-2 Sement, 7-1 Tuscan Dream, 8-1 Mam-mas F-C, 12-1 Friendly Brave, Statoyork, 14-1 Little font, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT SWEET MAGIC has been threatening to open his AW account in recent months, and is primed to do so dropped in grade under Kieren Fallon here, though do not take too short a price. Manness F-C has a solid form chance.

Ŀ	9.50 HORSE OF THE YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 7f					
1	112343 ELITE HOPE (28) (CD) N Trider 7 10 0 J McAuley (7) 1	ſ				
2	00-144 STORM CAT (24) (D) K McAulife 4 10 0 J F Egen 10 B	ŀ				
3	00-40 THE WOOOCOCK (8) (D) K Burle 49 SN Callin (5) 3 V	ı				
4	210040 ARC (49) (CD) F.Jordan 5.8 t3	- 1				
5	14TO32 ABTAAL (33) (CD) Mrs N Mazauley 9 9 10 P McCabe 5 B	- 1				
6	000-03 PRESENT CHANCE (19) D Shaw 5 9 9 R Winston (3) 11	ı				
7	00040' LOMAS (1395) (II) A Newcombe 6 8 9	į				
8	154230 C-HARRY (24) (CD) R Hollinshead 59 9 K Fallon 9	ì				
9	2553 SHARP STEEL (18) (D) Was S Wilton 4 96 C Rutter 4	- 1				
10	6304G- SAMARA SONG (1181) (D) Williams 6 0 8	ł				
11	60000- HOPEFUL STAR (180) Miss G Kelleway 4 9 2 S Whitworth 12	ı				
5	344354 DAHLIDYA (14) (C) M Polglase 4 8 2 T G McLaughān 7 B	ı				
	10 dealered	- 1				

DETTING: 3-1 Present Chence, 6-1 Bills Hope, 7-1 Storm CM, 8-1 The Wood-cock, Sharp Steel, 10-1 Abbasi, Semera Song, Dahildya, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT PUTAIN VEHUNG!

Of the requiar visitors to this lond of surface C-Harry makes a good deal of appeal, however, it is impossible to ignore how well treated PRESENT CHANCE could be and the fact that he parformed with credit, over an madequate distance, here in April last year, just shades the decision in his favour.

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RIPON

2.05 Beacon Vale 2.35 Pipadash 3.05 Ranaan 3.40 Yes Keemo Sabee 4.15 Internal Affair 4.50 Tough Leader 5.25 Evesham

HYPERION

INSPECTION 7.30am GOING: Soft (Heavy patches). STALLS: Straight course - stands' side: round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best on soft ground over 61 High best over round im.

Right-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends E Course is sest at the city on 86265. ADMISSION: Club £14: Tattersalis £9 (OAPs £8); Silver Ring £4; Course £3 (accompanied under-16s free all enclosures). Stay same all 1999 season. CAR PARK: Car and up to four occupants in course enclosure £10; remainder free.. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 19-108 (178%), T Easterby 17-133 (128%), H Cecil 13-32 (408%), L Current 12-45 (26.7%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 34-148 (228%), K Fallon 22-108 (208%), J Wesver 16-103 (15.5%), J Carroll 14-145 (9.7%). FAVOURITES: 152 436 (34.9%).

TONGUE STRAPS: Diamond Decorum (305), Kentucky Bullet (3.05); Katiymann (4.15). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

[2	2.05 BANDSTAND SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 2f
1	081-00 STONE RIDGE (29) (D) J Peerce 7 10 0
2	0-0032 DR WOODSTOCK (17) W Storey 59 t0
3	2050-0 GREY PROSPECT (57) M Stittain 5 9 10 D Marriagh (5) 4
4	OUR JACK C Kellen 4 9 10
5	005-50 SHAPLE IDEALS (USA) (17) N Tinkler 5 9 10 Kilm Tinkler 11
6	348-30 TONNERRE (47) (CD) h Morgan 7 9 10
7	122014 WESTERN GENERAL (14) Miss K Militain 6,9 to D Sweeney 2
8	10300- LAKE TAAL (214) Miss J.A Carracho 4 9 5 L Charnock 10
9	O MHDHAIGHT DREAM (26) A Smith 4 9 5 FI FitzPotrict (5) 12
10	0-0050 SERRATE (54) R Marvin 5 9 5

11 0-6000 SIDNEY THE KEDNEY (85) M Ryan 5 9 5 F Egen 5 - 12 declared ~ BETTING: 9-4 Stone Ridge, 3-1 Western General, 7-1 Dr Woodstock, Yonnerre, 8-1 Skaple Ideals, 10-1 Lake Test, 12-1 Beacon Vels, 16-1 others

2.35 DISHFORTH NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (E) £3,500 added 2YO fillies 5f 1 BLACKPOOL MAMMA'S (23) (D) J Berry 8 3......P Feesey 11 04 COLLEGE MAID (14) J Golde 8 2 F Egan 4 لد.... MRSS ROXANNE K Hoos 82J McAuley (7) 5 DISPOLEMMA P Caver 7 13 D DISTINCTLY BLU (23) K Ryan 7 t3 Fanning 2 VB_LA ROMANA A Selley 7 13. ______N Kennedy 3 WAIKATO M W Sesiesby ? 13.....

- 12 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Pipedash, 7-2 Tara's Girl, Risckpool Mamma's, 9-2 Dismond Promise, 7-1 Kisulpo, 12-1 College Maid, 20-1 Dispol Emma, Villa Results, Digest, page 25

3.05 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP (CLASS D) \$6,000 added 3YO 6f

3.40 CB HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP (C) \$10,000 added 2m

4.15 BBC RADIO YORK PRO-AM LADIES HANDICAP (E) \$4,000 added 1m

Ber 20. BETTING: 4-1 Internal Affair, 6-1 Rambo Waltzer, Holy Smoke, 7-1 Talchild, Send: Hawk, 8-1 Amron, Komitucky, 10-1 others

4.50 LANGTHORPE STAKES (CLASS C) 29,000 added 1m 4f 60yds 1 7246 SACHO (334) JL Hams 6 8 9.
2 62340 TOUGH LEADER (217) (D) 8 Hambury 5 8 9... 8 Winston 6) 3
3 12344 ST HELENSRIELD (397) M Johnston 4 8 8. Deen Moferma 2
4 28502 WALES (192) P Cole 4 8 8... W Ryan 1
94 declared 8577MG: Evend Sacho, 7-4 Wales, 4-1 St Helenstigid, 12-1 Tough Leader

5.25 ALDBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f

- 9 George G -BETTING: 11-10 Evestiers, 2-1 Tongerko, 5-1 Pulssantkoola, 8-1 Hadi-tovski, 12-1 Mister Hervey

المكذا من الملاحل

r slo-mo Doherty given a shock by Bond

NIGEL BOND provided a shock for the former title holder Ken Doherty by taking a 3-1 interval lead at the start of their second-round match in the Embassy World Championship in Sheffield yesterday.

Bond, a runner-up to Stephen Hendry in 1995, has struggled for form all season but has recently been receiving guidance from Derek Hill, who until earlier this year had been Ronnie O'Sullivan's unofficial

The new partnership appears to be working as Bond made the ideal start to the best-of-25 frames encounter against his Irish stablemate. The Derbyshire professional, ranked 13th in the world, captured the opening three frames, including a break of 67 in the second frame.

Doherty, the No 4 seed, has been among the most consistent players this year, reaching the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley. But he has yet to win a ranking title since defeating Stephen Hendry in the 1997 world final.

Stung into action yesterday, Doherty cut loose in the fourth frame to compile a run of 83 to open his account - but he still had a long way to go.

John Parrott and Chris Small resumed yesterday morning deadlocked at 4-4 and when they reached the midway interval of their second session the duo still could not be sepa-

Once again Parrott set the pace by making breaks of 55 and 66 to lead 5-4 and 6-5. But Small, the world number 25, refused to be shaken off and hit back to level at 6-6.

Small holds the key to the and Jimmy White, as the longer ship the more precarious are the élite positions of the two Crucible legends. Parrott was doing his best to help them out, but was becoming increasingly frustrated by his failure to pull clear.

made breaks of 66, 71, 80, 65, 55 round.

BY MARK PIERSON at The Crucible, Sheffield

and 66, while Small's most telling contribution was just one half-century.

On Thursday evening John Higgins gave the clearest indication yet that he will not be handing over his title without a

The 23-year-old world No 1 is attempting to become the only first-time champion in Crucible history to retain his title - and yesterday Higgins was striving to reach the quarter-finals while his main rivals have yet to start their secondround matches.

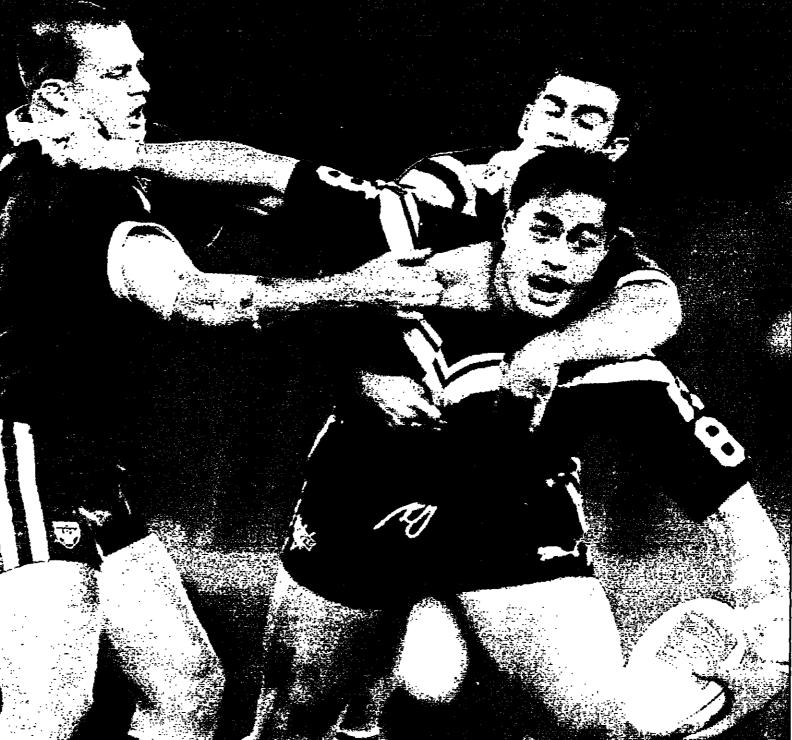
Higgins hammered Mark King, the world No 16, with a fusillade of breaks to build up a lead of 8-0. King, who once scored only 11 points against Higgins in a best-of-nine frames ranking tournament match, did very little wrong - he just had no idea how to stop Higgins piling up the breaks.

The Scotsman began the rout with a break of 75 and then followed up with back to back century breaks. Another half century helped him reach the mid-session interval 4-0 up, though King continued to pot balls for practice when already 87-16 behind.

When the match resumed King did not get any more table time. Higgins added runs of 48, 62, 84 and 77 while King's highest break of the session was only 29.

None of the other contenders have played as well as Higgins so far - certainly not Ronnie O'Sullivan, a semi-finalist twice in the last three top-16 futures of Steve Davis vears. His best break was only 68 in a 10-3 triumph over Leo he remains in the champion- Fernandez, the London based qualifier who promised much but delivered little.

"I really want things to happen, because that's when I play my best snooker," O'Suilivan, the world No 3, said. He will now take on Joe Perry, who over-In the first 12 frames Parrott came Steve Davis in the first



مكذا من الاحل

New Zealand's Joe Vagana is hauled back by Australia's Darren Smith (left) and Andrew Johns in Sydney yesterday

Smith's timing suits Monie

TONY SMITH will time his return for his first Super League match of the season perfectly this weekend with the visit of his old club. The Wigan and Great Britain scrum-half has been out for 11 weeks after breaking his ankle in the pre-season friendly at Halifax, but takes his place against Castleford tomorrow.

That is welcome news for the Wigan coach, John Monie, after a second Super League defeat of the season, at Halifax last week, left them bracketed with Cas on eight points - already four behind the leaders, St Helens, "It will be a great relief to have Tony back," Monie said.

"It has been very tough for

RUGBY LEAGUE BY DAVE HADFIELD

Greg Florimo to settle in without our regular half-back, but hopefully they will start to strike up a partnership."

Monie is still short of bodies elsewhere in the team, with Phil Jones making his first start on made us successful. the wing and the Academy winger, Liam Bretherton, making his debut appearance on the

Elsewhere, the usual pre-Wembley question applies of how the finalists will be affected. The London coach, Dan Stains. does not believe that the big and goal-kicker in the final.

occasion looming explained his side's 40-8 thrashing at Wakefield last week. "We lost sight of a lot of things that we have been doing and I include myself in that," he said. "I feel responsible for the result, and there has been a lot of soul-searching this week. We have got to go back to doing the things that

For this evening's home game against Warrington, he is without the suspended Robbie Simpson and the injured Peter Gill - both of whom will be available for Wembley - but has Rob Smyth back in the team, auditioning for the roles of winger

Leeds' Graham Murray, on threatened too seriously by the other hand, admits that his players have been affected by the impending occasion. "I thought I could avoid it," he said, but the evidence of some unconvincing recent form is that neither he nor they can.

too good for Huddersfield. greatly impressed their coach, Malcolm Reilly. A clutch of Leeds players, including Daryl Powell, Marvin Golden and Andy Hay, will be out to demonstrate their fitness.

Leeds' immediate priority Saints, who should not be Sheffield tomorrow night.

Hull, who are still without a win. Their coach, Ellery Hanley, was critical of Saints' display against Sheffield last week, but he has Paul Newlove back. Tommy Martyn is likely to miss out with a shoulder injury, with For all that, they should be Paul Wellens, one of several young Saints who have repaid whose two recent wins have not Hanley's faith so far this season. standing in.

point, Salford, have a difficult task at improving Gateshead, while Wakefield, whose two wins so far have already exceeded the gloomiest preseason predictions, are at Sheffield tomorrow night.

Hot our greatest performance but we're still winning."

AUSTRALIA: Lockyer, Salor, Daley, Smith, Rogers: Firther, Langer, Webke, Johns, Rogers: Firther, Langer, Webke, Johns, Saran, Saran, Saran, Seeds Sing, Price, Kosef, Fetcher, NEW ZEALAND: Barnett Hoppe, Talau, Wile, Valnick R Paul, Lones, Vagana, H Paul, J Lower, McCracken, Cayless, Swann, Substitutes used: Kidwell, Rug, Hermansson, Swann. exceeded the gloomiest preis not to fall any further behind season predictions, are at

Australia hang on despite the Pauls

Australia New Zealand

BRADFORD'S HENRY Paul was

forced off with a neck injury near the end of a fascinating Test yes terday in which he and his brother, Robbie, had given New Zealand an excellent chance of beating Australia, writes Dave Hadfield. But despite the Bulls' pair helping them dominate for long periods, the Kiwis came out second best in the Anzac Day Test at the Olympic Stadium in

Paul was injured in a tackle by Gorden Tallis three minutes from the end as the Kiwis strove to equalise. The Bradford Bulls player was due have X-rays last night to determine the extent of the injury after inspiring a courageous Kiwi effort as they went down 20-14 to Australia at the Olympic Stadium.

"I thought we had them on the rack several times but we iust couldn't put them away," Frank Endacott the New Zealand coach, said. "We're getting closer to them all the time but we're still not there yet."

Robbie Paul struck the first blow, taking an inside pass from Stacey Jones to give New Zealand a shock lead after only two minutes.

Henry Paul, playing hooker, added the goal and could have created a second try if support had arrived in time when he made a thrilling break from a tap penalty. Instead, Australia's defence held firm despite New Zealand have the majority of possession and they equalised before half-time when brilliant passes from Laurie Daley and Darren Lockyer opened the way for Wendell Sailor.

They took the lead early in the second half when Brad Fittler's kick caught out three defenders and Darren Smith came through to touch down. Logan Swann hit back for the Kiwis, but unlike Mat Rogers, Henry Paul could not convert, his kick coming back off the post.

Bryan Fletcher's storming run set up Fittler for a try that put the home side clear, but New Zealand responded through Lesley Vainikolo, before Rogers' fourth goal gave Australia their winning margin.

"This is a side loaded with talent but they showed plenty of grit," Australia's coach Chris Anderson, said. "It was probably The other side without a not our greatest performance

Gulliksen's glory ride

GEIR GULLIKSEN got the better of a long-standing friend when he defeated John Whitaker in yesterday's international speed contest, one of the supporting classes for the three legs of the World Cup final which is being decided in the Scandinavium here this weekend.

2.80

p.255

The Norwegian's success (albeit in a relatively minor competition) was the realisation of an ambition that he has held since coming to the Scandinavium as a spectator and autograph collector some 22 years ago. His victory was the he followed these instructions first for Norway in this arena.

based with the Whitaker family in Yorkshire for about six months. Yesterday he walked the course with John Whitaker - whose clear round on the nifty chestnut mare, Foxhill ButterEQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY in Gothenburg

fly, was the best until Gulliksen went flat out on Baltimoor. "We hit the right spots everywhere." the delighted Norwegian said.

Whitaker, who frequently works through Gulliksen when buying or selling horses, also gives him advice on show jumping. "I'm always too keen, John tells me, to keep it smooth," the Norwegian said. It would be untrue to say that

to the letter. With his flapping Back in 1979, Gulliksen was elbows, Gulliksen was hardly poetry in motion - but he nevertheless won by a margin of 1.47sec and no one in the City of Gothenburg could have been On Thursday evening, John

Whitaker was naturally disappointed with his two mistakes in the first leg of the World Cup final on Virtual Village Grannusch, which had left him

He thought that the first problem on the difficult distance into the double at fence 11 was partly rider error ("I was going for three strides instead of four") but he could not pin-point the reason for hitting the first part of the double at fence 13.

back in 23rd place.

Grannusch, who won the first two legs of the World Cup final a year ago, was expected to be the better of the two British horses on Thursday evening. However, show jumpers can be unpredictable and it was Michael Whitaker's mount, Virtual Village Ashley, who got off to the better start when making his only error at the last of the 14 fences for 15th place.

Roberts' lap puts Doohan in shade

KENNY ROBERTS Jnr followed his season-opening win in Malaysia last weekend with the fastest time in yesterday's first qualifying session for the Japanese 500cc Grand Prix.

With rain forecast for today, when the final qualifying takes place, Roberts' fastest lap of 1:50.826 could prove good enough to put his Suzuki on pole position for tomorrow's race at

"I really wanted to get a time in that would be good enough for the front row," the American said. "As soon as I did this lap time I felt that was OK and after that I went into race instead of qualifying mode and started to work on testing different things." Michael Doohan, the de-

fending champion, was second

MOTORCYCLING

quickest on a HRC Honda in 1:51.158 while Spain's Carlos Checa, on a Yamaha, was third and John Kocinski fourth fastest, also on a Honda.

Roberts, the eldest son of the three-times 500cc champion Kenny Roberts, surprised some last weekend when he took Suzuki's first 500c win in four the new Motegi twin-ring track. years, relegating Doohan, Australia's five-times champion, to fourth place.

However, the 25-year-old, who switched to a rejuvenated Suzuki team after last season on his father's Modenas, had impressed in winter testing and again looked a cut above the rest yesterday with the only time below 1:51,00 on the 4.8-kilometre track.

Rowe in hungry mood

MARTIN ROWE will start the Pirelli International Rally in Carlisle today knowing he has made the perfect start to the defence of his Mobil 1 British Championship title. However, the Renault driver

was not satisfied with the way he launched the new campaign at last month's Vauxhall Rally of Wales. Rowe could have done no more in championship terms than collect the maximum 32 points on offer as he again proved himself the man to beat among the two-litre class competitors. But his performance in the Welsh forests was only good enough for second place overall, with David Higgins winning the event in a Subaru which is not eligible for

the main championship. Rowe admits that taking an instant lead in the title race would have been all the sweeter if he had been stood on the

RALLYING

By JON WILDE

top step of the podium in Wrexham. The 27-year-old from the Isle of Man is keen to extend his advantage in the quest for the domestic crown by outpacing all his rivals in Cumbria this week-

"I was relieved to come out ahead of my championship rivals in the first round of my title defence," said Rowe, whose team-mate Tapio Laukkanen was his closest challenger in Wales. "It was a very rough event because everyone was being hit by punctures, and it could be the same again on the Pirelli. But I want an overall victory as well as to win the Formula 2 Category this time."

days of action each comprising outset.

a separate round of the championship. Rowe won the first leg to extend his winning sequence to three consecutive events in the series. The second leg went to the Seat driver Gwyndaf Evans, who is unhappy that the double-header format has been scrapped this year.

Evans is also not in favour of every round in this year's championship contributing to a competitor's points tally. The Welshman preferred the previous scoring system in which drivers discounted their worst result. He has already become a victim of the new method failure to finish in his home event left Evans 32 points behind his arch rival Rowe. In fact. the Rally of Wales was a disaster for Evans and the whole Seat team, as they suffered Last year's Pirelli event was mechanical problems with all a double-header with the two their four cars virtually from the

MATIONIAL LEAGUE: Colorado 8 San Francisco 5; New York Mets 4 Cincinnati 1; Houston at Chcago Cuts (postponed). AMERICAN LEAGUE PCT GB .786 -.538 3½, .467 4½, .438 5 .357 6

BASKETBALL NBA: Arianta 106 Boston 94; Philadel-phia 104 Detroit 96; Miami 75 Oriando 70; San Antonio 103 Dallas 76. 70; 3dff Automo 103 Dallas 70.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Exrolongue
Floal Four tournament: Final: Zalgiris Kaunas (Lith) bt Kinder Bologne (Ir) 92-74. Taird
place play-off; Oympakos Fraeus (Gr) bt
fearmsystem Bologne (It) 74-63.

BOWLS GREENALLS SPRING MATERILOO (Black-pool) Filth round: G Telford (Sale) by F Swalles (Keiprley) 21-7; G Wilson (Oldham) by R Mo-son (Sheffield) 21-14; R Hinchen (Halfast by H Hargeauer (Blackburn) 21-16; M Telford (Sale) by J Half (New Mills) 21-16.

PARLE TROPHY Final (Bangalore): Karnataka 304 (V Bharadwa) 86. S Somasundar 70: H S Sodill 5-76) and 32-7 dec (V Akarnataka) 75). Madhya Pradesh 379 (S Sahu 130. D Bundela 79. D Ganesh 5-103) and 150 (A Ali 47. Bharadwa) 6-24). Karnataka aroa by 96

WIORLD CUP FINAL (Gothenburg): In-bernational Speed Contest: 1 Baltimor (G Guillissen, Nor) 5-9 91sec 2 Foshill Bur-terthy (J Whitaver, G8) 5-6.38, 3 Viris Idal-co (E van der Vieuten, Neth) 57.36.

Dinamo Bucharest and Steaua Bucharest received home bans from the Romanian FA yesterday. Dinamo must play their next two First Divi-

the Romanian FA yesterday. Dinamo must play their next two First Division games at least 60km from the capital and Steau must play one away because of crowd trouble at their Romanian Cup semi-final on 14 April.

MATIONIMIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE: Rearranged flutures: The 27 April Yok v Blackpool; Halifax v Scunthorpe; Port Vale v Watford. Thu 29 Apri. Northampton v Migan. Moo 3 May: Chester field v Northampton (3.0). The 4 May: Norts County v Macciesfiel; Darlington v Exeter. Thu 6 May: Swansea v Cambridge Uto. HUNGARY SOUAD (International friendly v England, Budapest; Defanders: Sebok (Bristol City), 6 Morsos (Gyor ETO). Hurtka (kaiserslautem). Dragouer (Foruma Cologne) Maquis (Ferencyaros), Szekares (Ulpest). Midfielders: Somogyi (Gyor), Dardai (Hertha Berlin), Halmai (MTK Budapest), Biles (MTK Budapest). Biles (MTK Budapest). Pisont (Ulpest), A Morsos (Ulpest), Hercateg (Ulpest), A Morsos (Ulpest), Hercateg (Ulpest), Dombi (Debrecen), Egressy (Dossgor). Dombi (Debrecen), Egressy (Dossgor). Dombi (Debrecen), Egressy (Dossgor). Autonomide Conference Chellenham s' Youn' 2 (Chelenham promoted), Forest Green 2 Morecamb 2. Rystan League Premier Division: Sutton Un 5 Albershot () (Suf-

SPORTING DIGEST

ton promoted to Notionwide Conference);
St Albans 1 Dulwich 1, Hendon 1 Harrow
Borough 2: Chesham 3 Bromkey 1 First Division: Rom/ord 2 Worthing 1 Leatherhead
O Weaddstone 1. Dr Martens Laague Pramier Division: Cambridge (fry 1 Barh City
1 Midland Division: Paget Pangers O Clevedon Town 3: Solihull Boto 3 F C Warvack
2 Unlasport United Counties League epremiter Division: Cogentine 1 St Neots 0
Teathersts Highland Lague Cop: Brora
Rangers 1 Wick Academy 0, Fort William 0
Clachnacuddin 1 Nacional League of
breland Premier Division: Dundalk 0
UCD 2, Aston Incarasset Combination First
Division: Wycombe 0 Cambridge Utd 3,
Jewiston Eastarn League Premier Diviston: Lowestort & Newmarket 1 interflink
Express Middland Affiliances Rocester 3 Oldbury 1. UniBond League Premier Diviston: Leigh RMI 0 Funcorn 0 First
Division: Burscough 1 Radcliffe Borough
0, Affreton Down 1 Hockhall Town 2
Uniffina First Division: Wick 0 Hassochs
3 North Mestern Trains League From
1 League First Division: Wick 0 Hassochs
1 Bangor Griy 1. Poutins League Premier Division: Lowestort & Newmarket 1 Arnott
Insurance Northern League Premier Division: Division: Bermingham 0 Derby 0, Man Utd
0 League of Walas: Connah s Cusy Nords
1 Bangor Gry 1. Poutins League Premier
Division: Birmingham 0 Derby 0, Man Utd
0 League of Self: Wed 0 Third Division: Epsom 6
Ewell 3 Clapton 0

GOLF GREATER GREENSBORO CHRYSLER ICE HOCKEY

MHL STANLEY CUP First round play-off's (best-of-seven series); New Jer-sey 3 Pittsburgh 1 (New Jersey lead series 1-0); Buffalo 2 Ottawa 1 (1-0); Boston 2 Carolina 0 (1-0); Philadelphia 3 Toronto 0 (1-0); Dallas 2 Edmonton 1 (1-0); Detroit 5 Anahelm 3 (1-0); St Louis 3 Phoeniz 1 (1-0). MOTORCYCLING

JAPANESE 500CC GRAND PRIM [Tokyo]: Opening practice session times: 1 K Roberts (US) Suzuki 1:50.826; 2 M Doohan (Aus) Honda 1:51 153: 3 C Checa [Sp) Vamaha 1:51.332; 4 J Kocins-ki (US) Honda 1:51.333; 5 M Baggi Itti Yamaha 1 51.439; 6 A Barros [Br) Honda 1:51 636, 7 R Lacon [Fr] Vamaha 1:51.546; 8 T Okada (Japan) Honda 1:51.785. RUGBY LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (Sydney) Australia 20 (5) New Zealand (6) 14. Australia: Tries Sailor, Smith, Fittler: Goals Rogers, 4, New Zealand: Tries R Paul, Swamn, Valnikolo: Goal H Paul. (30 000) RUGBY UNION SUPER 12 (Dunedin): New South Wales Waracahs 23 Otago Highlanders 15.

SKIING Germany's Katja Seizinger, one of the most successful women racers in the history of Alpine skiing, an-nounced her retirement yesterday. "I have decided to finish my stud-ies and to try my luck in a normal working life." the three-times Olympic champion said yesterday. SPEEDWAY

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Craven Shield: ipswich 43 Peterborough 47. Pre-mier League National Trophy: Swindon 49 Workington 40 TENNIS

TENNIS

AIP TOUR EVENT (Orlande, Ma) Men's singles second round: H Gurry (Ag) bt J Stotterberg (Aus; 7-6 7-6; J Courier (US) bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-5 6-4; C Ruad (Nor) bt L Arnoid (Arg) 3-6 7-6 6-2; M Minny (Bela) bt R Catdart (Fr) 6-2 7-6.

MONTE CARLO OPEN (Monaco) Men's singles, quartor-finals: F Mantila (Sp) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-4 6-7 7-6; G Neuren (Br) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-7 6-3 6-0.

LTA MEN'S FUTURES TOURNAMENT (Harfield) Singles, second round: T Lartham (Aus) bt I Rodrigo (Sp) 7-5 6-1; T Nurminen (Fin) bt K Flyte (Swe) 6-2 2-6 6-3; R Gibbert (Fr) bt B Eliwood (Aus) 5-7 6-3 6-3; P Freditisson (Swe) bt T Carar (Sloven) 6-1 4-0 ret: P Langwardt (Den) bt G Mar (Fr) 6-3 4-6 6-2; D Sanchez (Sp) bt P Kralert (Cz Rep) 7-5 6-3; J Olala (Fin) bt M Brent (Aus) 7-5 6-2.

www.thetrainline.com The TraintLine can be used to book rall tickets for any Train Operating Company in Great Entlan. Contain exclusions apply - Motorall, Siespera, Euroster, ferry services, season tickets and certain promotional and supplementary tickets. Tickets sold are subject to terms and conditions and availability. See website for

full details. Virgin Enterprises Ltd., 120 Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AR.

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS

New deal? News to me, says Coppell

seemed on Monday, when the Crystal Palace chairman, Mark Goldberg, addressed a

gathering of fans and reassured them over the future of the financially troubled club. Goldberg said his manager, Steve Coppell, had signed a new five-year deal. This was about the only thing he said all night that was applauded by the majority of the audience, who had had to pay £5 for the privilege of hearing the extent of their club's troubles. But wait, Yesterday's Croydon Advertiser ran a headline saying "Coppell: I have not signed a fresh deal." In the article Coppell was quoted as saying that he has had his current contract since Terry Venables left in January and there was nothing new about it. "I don't have a new five-year contract," he said. On the task of trying to pick a team each week, when the future is in the balance, he added: "It is pointless really. I have no control whatsoever over who comes in or who goes from the football club."

Fans have also been wondering bow many of Monday's audience were either bodyguards for Goldberg - it was later revealed that his administrators had insisted on a team of walkie-talkied minders being placed strategically around the hall - and how many were pro-Goldberg stooges. At one point, a "fan" asked: "Are Mark's problems only the same as [previous owner] Ron Noades's? Is Mark not just being more honest?" The truth-seeker was recognised. however, as a Palace official who had the temerity to throw The Sweeper's representative out of the club's training ground recently. Having made his point from the back of the hall, the questioner retired to a box occupied by other Goldberg supporters.

AFTER LAST Saturday's experience when Gordon Strachan paid the keeper Magnus Hedman when the Swede injured himself early on, it

price for not having suitable cover for goalis a fair bet that the Coventry manager will give veteran Steve Ogriextension he seeks. Contrary to reports, however, Oggy would still be tempo of the game will suit him. What a Carry On.

- unless, of course, Strachan were to give him a two-year contract.

Burridge set the record when an injury to Tony Coton gave him the chance to turn out for Manchester City against Queen's Park Rangers in their last game of the 1994-95 Premiership season at the age of 43 years, five months and 11 days. Ogrizovic will only be 42 in September, but he has been a great servant for the club, overtaking George Curtis's record number of League appearances last season and now stand-

He would almost certainly have made his 505th appearance last Saturday had he not been injured. When Hedman suffered a hip injury Strachan was reluctant to pit 17year-old Chris Kirkland into the fray

SONG SHEET The Cheltenham Town theme tune 46 We can't read and we can't write, But that don't really matter We all come from And we can drive a tractor. oh Agar, Occoh Agar. 🧣 🛊

and as a result Hedman was beaten by a lame shot from Vladimir Kinder in a 2-1 home defeat to Middlesbrough which threw the Sky Blues back into the relegation melt-

been cracking the Mills (definitely no relation) said. whip at Real Madrid since his team's 5-1 thrashing by championship contenders Celta Vigo a fortnight ago with tough, military-

style training sessions which may not go down too well with Steve McManaman, if comments from his former Liverpool team-mate. David Burrows, are anything to go

where else, because the quicker

ALL WAS not as it lagging behind John Burridge as the He is a great lad, a manager's oldest Premiership player on record dream, but he will have to get used to the different ways of operating over there. He likes his freedom and spare time and over in Spain they train three times a day sometimes. It will be interesting to see how he copes with things like that." Well, he surely didn't think he would not have to work for his £14m, did he?

> ic Bradford City striker who took a fearful slagging off recently in the Port Vale programme on his return to the club, is the not the first Vale Park old boy. it would appear, to suffer from the author's poison pen. In an earlier Vale programme it was said of Dutchman Rogier Koordes after he had been released by the club: "He often looked as if he'd struggle to find a place in a Sunday League team full of middle-aged beer bellies whose pre-match warm-up is a

LEE MILLS, the prolif-

fag and a pint of Peddy." Of the departed Swede Jan Jannson it was said: "He seemed to have a fair-weather playing policy and his regular injuries were more often than not baffling to medical science. He was a bit like a Jaguar XJS, a fast designer car with great control but expensive to keep running and frequently unreliable."

Just what the two foreigners had done to invite such bile is not known. At least Mills had given cause for resentment with his parting shot: "Three years at Vale Park is enough for anybody." At recent home games the local fanzine. Vale Park Beano, has invited fans to sign a letter supporting the club's views on Lee Mills. "I think a lot of fans would agree with the article in the JOHN TOSHACK has match programme." editor Dick

> IT'S NICE to be remembered. At Stoke's last home game, the winner of the halftime draw received his prize from Eric Skeels, who still holds the record for League appearances at the Potteries club -506 from 1958-76.

The public address announcer "I'm pleased he's going to introduced the legendary Stoke zovic the 12-month contract Spain rather than Italy or any- figure by saying. "And here to make the award is ... Eric Sykes."

AS YOU WERE



AS MANCHESTER UNITED stay on course for their "historic treble" it's worth remembering that another British side has already gone one better, with a memorable four-timer 32 years ago. In 1967, Celtic won the Scottish League title, the Scottish FA Cup and the Scottish League Cup. and then crowned their year with a European Cup victory over Internazionale. They effectively secured their place in the European final with a 3-1 win over Dukla Prague in the semi-final first leg. The second leg's 0-0 scoreline did little to dampen the spirit as the players, including Bobby Lennox, Bertie Auld and Bobby Murdoch celebrated (above). Jimmy Johnstone (second from right), scored twice in the first leg-

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

know who to root for in the Uefa Cup Final

in Moscow next month. backed at "Burlington Bertie" 100-30) or Marseilles (the 6-4 unthe European Cup final. Man-thrown in to boot.

WHAT A dilemma. It's chester United (the 4-6 favourites going to be hard to we've backed at 9-2) have simply got to beat Bayern Munich at the Nou Camp while, in the Cup-Winners' Cup final at Villa Park, Lazio Should The Price Is Right cheer the 1-2 favourites we've backed on Parma (the 1-2 favourites we've at 6-4) must beat Real Mallorca. Meanwhile, despite last week's reverse, we reckon we're pulling into derdogs we've backed at 7-1)? Draw Central again this week-end Easy money. Things are admit- so we're going for a big trebles' tedly somewhat more clear-cut in spread with a fun four-timer Wednesday to draw with Chelsea

SWEEPER'S PUSH FOR PROMOTION

LIBERO WAGER

(35 x £1 trebles with Stanley): Blackburn to draw with Liverpool (12-5); Everton to draw with Charlton (9-4); Leicester to draw with Coventry (9-4); Tottenham to draw with West Ham (12-5); Wimbledon to draw with Newcastle (9-4): Leeds to draw with

FUN FOUR-TIMER

(£1 four-timer with Stanley): Aston Villa to beat Nottingham Forest (4-11); mpton to win at Derby (13-5); Arsenal to win at Middlesbrough (5-6); Sampdoria to draw with Lazio (2-1). ORIGINAL BANK: £100.

Manchester United (9-4); Sheffield **CURRENT KITTY:** £150.07! *************** TODAY'S BETS: £39.24 (inc. tax).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Paisley Panda. Club: St Mirren.

Appearance: A 6ft panda. Crime sheet: Paisley Panda's troubles stem almost entirely from his behaviour at derby games against the Saints' deadliest rivals, Greenock Morton. Inside the Panda lurks an amiable chap called

Andy ("best not to use my surname"), and in the first derby this season, he taunted the Morton fans with a scrubbing brush and soap and a jaunty chant along the lines of "what a bunch of soap dodgers." Harmless enough you'd think, even when he went as far as chasing a Morton player shouting: "You need a wash." As Andy said this week: "It's not meant to offend anyone." In the most recent match between the sides, he continued his theme, bringing onto the pitch a giant "magic tree" air freshener, with which he taunted the opposition fans. They were not best pleased, and Andy confirmed this week that he will now officially be investigated by the Scottish FA following a police

caution. Eat your heart out, Cyril the Swan. In mitigation, your Honour: Paisley Panda is a Love Street favourite. nimble on his feet, not bad at balletic poses and generally regarded as a cheeky but loveable rogue. Not that it washes with Morton fans.

MY TEAM



Sky sports "Soccer AM" presenter "My dad used to sit and watch Chelsea on television and I just thought it was a manly thing to do. It was around 1970 and Chelsea were big at the time. I grew up in Middlesex and all my friends were Chelsea fans too. Because of lack of recent success my best memory is the 1997 FA Cup final. It was great that Di Matteo scored so early on, it meant it was a relaxing experience unlike most FA Cup finals. Although most of my heroes are the current side, who are a great bunch of lads, I still remember Joey Jones, Butch Wilkins and Mickey Thomas. I honestly believe we can win the League this year but if we don't, then

a Champions' League place is a must." Interview by Paul Attfield

In t'net

Found on the Web: FC Bayern München THE WEB home of Manchester United's European Cup final opponents has a section called "Foundation". which reads, rather tantalisingly: "Is that what Franz John imagined when he founded FC Bayern 97 years ago on 27 February 1900 in the Restaurant Gisela, together with eleven friends - that he was

creating what was to be Germany's most successful football club! And just because in the 1879 Munich MTV club the main emphasis was on gymnastics, rather than on the then despised kicking around." Head to this site for extensive news and features, including "Neudecker era" and "From Heynckes to Hitzfeld." There's also information on the Olympic Stadium in Munich and the players, as well as a fairly comprehensive statistics package. http://www.sport1.de/fcbayern/english/index_eng

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

AS REAL MALLORCA fans might say to the Chelsea team: "On yer bikes, lads." And what a choice they have. The Chelsea FC cycles are priced between £169.99 and £249.99 for the mountain models and the smaller BMX versions (are you watching, Dennis Wise?) are a snip, at between £90.00 and £150.00.

THEY'RE **NOT ALL DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 36 RODNEY JACK: The 27-year-old St Vincent international striker joined Torquay on a free from Lambada, St Vincent in October 1995. He proved to be one of the most exciting players in the Third Division in 1996-97, scoring 10 goals in 33 League appearances. He added 12 more in 40 appearances the following season. Newcastle and Sunderland spotted his talent and went as far as inviting him to train with them. Neither could offer him a job. Rodnev signed for Crewe in July last year, but was unavailable for this season's opening games as his work permit was delayed. "I see it as a step in the right direction," the player said when joining Crewe, whose only direction now appears to be down. "I just want to go there and perform." He scored both goals in a 2-0 Worthington Cup win over Oldham, and although he's since netted several more times, he's drifted in and out of contention.



Welsh 'Martyrs' surviving against the odds

I HAVE noticed over the last 20 have developed a healthy hayears or so that our supporters tred for the enemy choir. have a tendency not to sing or

given that we are a Weish club, but generally the singing gets left to the rugby supporters. Our poor performance in this But in recent years the club area serves to increase my irritation with vociferous groups of travelling away fans who come and stand near my usual spot on the half-way line, tence. singing and chanting what at the time sound like taunting and insulting attacks, but which, when I return to the cold light of day. I realise is harmless nonsense. However, during the game my irritation grows

Martyrs by name. Martyrs

chant, except for a few enthuby nature. That is the recent lot siastic young teenagers who of fans of Merthyr Tydfil AFC find it difficult to achieve much of the Dr Martens (Southern) League Premier Division. The This may sound surprising, club's nickname, the Martyrs, is based on the fact that the town is named after Tydfil, a fifth century Christian martyr supporters have been martyrs themselves, due to a series of events which have constantly threatened the club's exis-

Merthyr Tydfil is unusual in that it has, for the last 80 years, been a football oasis in south Wales, where rugby union is traditionally king, and is still the premier spectator sport. After the Second World War the degradually until, by half-time, I funct Merthyr Town were reFAN'S EYE **VIEW**

MERTHYR TYDFIL BY JOHN STRAND

formed as Merthyr Tydil AFC. In the following eight years the club won the Southern League five times, a record unsurpassed since the war. Eventually the good times came to an end, with the club alternating between the divisions of the Southern League for the following 30 years, although the club attracted many fine players towards the end of their careers, such as John Charles, Tommy Hutchison, George Wood and Bob Latchford.

title was captured once again, along with the Welsh Cup. There followed a memorable. narrowly lost, European Cup-Winners-Cup tie with the Ital- in the "money." A new consorian side Atalanta. Several years were spent in what is now the Nationwide Conference, where a consistently enjoyable high standard of football was the norm. During this period there was a determined but unsuccessful attempt to force is Owen Money. Merthyr to play in the League of Wales, which still collectively pulls in less fans than any one of the top clubs in the Con-

ference. In recent years things have dramatically declined. We have changed owners more than most clubs change managers. eaton Borough. They brought times will come around again

Success returned in the less than four years, with three Penydarren Park a few weeks 1980s. The Southern League managers this season alone. This has been accompanied by relegation back to the Southern League.

At last, however, the club is tium has rescued the club. It has the backing of a wealthy businessman, who originates from South Wales, and the new Chairman is Lyn Mittell, a Merthyr Tydfil show-business personality whose stage name There is a feeling among

Martyrs fans that the new owners will have the appropriate commitment. The early signs are good. The first game after the announcement of the

ago. outnumbering us. A larger group than usual stood nearby and started the usual arrogant and taunting chants. All we could manage was a half hearted "Come On Merthyr."

However, the unexpected happened and we led 1-0 at half time. Another goal followed, with the Martyrs dominating the second half. As always, the most enjoyable effect for me was the silencing of the Nuneaton choir. We even managed to extend the chant of "Come On Merthyr" to 80 per cent of our supporters, to drown out any remnants of the Nuneaton singing. After recent events this enjoyable retakeover was against the run-sult was a reminder that, if you away league leaders. Nun- are patient in football the good We have had four owners in a large hand of supporters to -assuming you still have a club.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

There's still more to come from this team. They have yet to reach their neak Alex Ferguson, Man Utd manager, after his side's victory over Juventus.

As arrogant as Ferguson is, his team are splendid and divine in equal measure. Tuttosport', Italian paper.

after United's victory

Zidane doesn't like Turin? He misses the sea? He'd prefer Barcelona or Marseilles? He can go where he likes, so long as he goes. He doesn't deserve to stay.

Tuttosport', on the

Juventus midfielder. I have even taken drugs in

the dressing-room 20 minutes before a match. I started the match on speed and ended it on crutches. Martin Neil, of Berwick, on his drug problem.

don't win this year

would be a better place. Charles Barkley, of the the outcry after team-mate Pippen was arrested for drunk driving.

المكدا م الامل

100

TODAY 10124 10 20 20 W F SPRING

I will be a bitter man if I Jimmy White, before his first-round defeat at the World Snooker Champi-

ouships to Alan McManus.

This is not Armageddon. It happened. If all kids grew up to be like Scottie, the world NBA's Houston Astros, on

'I will play on' insists Vialli

Chelsea's leader is swift to counter speculation over his dual role after defeat in Europe. By Steve Tongue

GIANLUCA VIALLI was yesterday putting a brave face on a manager"-had lead to specdefeat in the European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final by Real Mallorca and trying to end confusion about his own role by insisting that he would continue playing as well as managing the

There was widespread surprise when Vialli's name did not even appear on the list of seven Chelsea substitutes before a 1-0 defeat in Palma on Thursday night put them out of the competition on a 2-1 aggregate. He had previously kept his best efforts this season for Cup competitions, scoring nine times in 11 games, but drawing a blank in each of his seven Premiership matches.

There was not an orthodox striker on the bench as Chelsea tried to retrieve the goal headed in by Leo Biagini after 15 minutes, following slack till I'm 37 or 38. But I want to marking at a set-piece.

Vialli's comments immedi-

better if I concentrate on being ulation that he would do just that as early as next season. The Chelsea hierarchy, having pushed Ruud Gullit to the brink 14 months ago with their demands that he do the same. would presumably have had no problem with Vialli following suit. Yesterday, however, he

said: "I've got no problems car-

rying on with both roles. Some-

times it's demanding, but it's

always exciting. If you want to be a good manager, you have to realise it's difficult being part of all games. "I don't like being a substitute. I'm not the sort of player who can come on and turn a match. I need to be on for 90 minutes. I rarely score coming on as a substitute. I'll have to

start thinking about quitting

sometime because I can't play play next season, definitely." Vialli felt that the run of the ately after the game - "I was not ball did not favour his team on



عكذا من الاحل

Gianfranco Zola cuts a lone, dejected figure in the aftermath of Chelsea's elimination by Real Mallorca in the Cup-Winners' Cup Empics

minutes Argentina's goalkeeper Carlos Roa touched Roberto Di Matteo's powerful drive on to the bar and Dennis Wise failed to put the bite on Mallorca with a soft header.

The damage, however, had been done at Stamford Bridge. where for the third time in four

home legs Chelsea failed to con-mean defence and swift coun-row, just the sort of game to sort necessity to pre-qualify for their vert an abundance of scoring opportunities. Against the limited Scandinavian opposition provided by Helsingborg and FC Copenhagen they managed only a single goal, leading to unnecessarily anxious away legs, while Real, renowned for their

only chance they created in 90

Now Vialli must pick up his "chaps" with immediate effect, starting in the Premiership at Sheffield Wednesday tomor- 1955, but would avoid the a season's work.

terattacking, were allowed a out which of them have the draw and an away goal from the heart for five more battles this season. A big haul of points could yet earn the runners-up position, which would not only be Chelsea's best finish apart

from the championship year of

IF LAZIO were looking for a

morale booster after the two

worst weeks of their otherwise

triumphant season, their Cup-

done little to convince their

trophies this year.

first shot at the Champions"

If a mood of self-pity takes hold, the priority will become to prevent Leeds, who are five points behind, from beating them to third place and ruining

Cotterill savours a champion party

Cheltenham look to future after winning League place. By Phil Shaw

AS THE morning after the night before broke over the Cotswolds, bleary-eyed and sore-throated Cheltonians pored over their newspapers to make sure it had not all been a delirious, drunken dream. After 107 years of habitual under-achievement, Cheltenham Town really had won promotion to the Football

None of the 6,150 people who packed Whaddon Road to its capacity on Thursday will quickly forget the identity of the player whose header deep in stoppage time defeated Yeovil Town and clinched the Nationwide Conference championship for Cheltenham. With his surname, Jamie Victory was probably destined to score the winner. It said much about the mayhem of the final moments and the party which followed that his fellow wing-back, Michael Duff, was adamant he had applied the decisive touch.

Confirming that Victory had officially been credited with the goal, the Cheltenham manager, Steve Cotterill, put the friendly dispute into perspective. "Who cares who scored it?" the former Wimbledon striker said yesterday. "All that matters is that we did it."

The 34-year-old Cotterill, who is Cheltenham-born and bred but based in Bournemouth, finally left the celebrations at the club at six o'clock in the morning. He fell into bed at his parents' home at 6.30, only to be awoken at 8.0 by his excited daughters.

Cheltenham, who visit Hayes today, will have played six matches in 15 days before taking their leave of the Conference at home to Welling next Saturday. Only then will Cotterill start planning for next season, but he intimated that his squad, which includes a window-fitter, fitness instructor, mobile-phone salesman and two house-husbands (Vic-Banks), will go full-time.

Cheltenham were in the Southern League, which provided their only previous title in 1984, when Cotterill arrived that Milan are favourites, but I from Sligo Rovers 27 months think we are. We're top of the ago. Promoted only because the champions, Gresley Rovers, could not satisfy the Conference's stadium requirements, they promptly finished runners-up to Halifax Town and won the FA Umbro Trophy last season.

Cotterill, who was not joking when he said he expected "the freedom of the city", is confident Cheltenham can hold their own at the higher level. on our heels? No, fear doesn't Average crowds of 3,000 demonstrate their potential, though they may have to fend off interest in their ambitious iest of their five remaining manager, who came close last league matches. They then autumn to landing the job at Swindon Town, 40 miles away

Redknapp denies part in Storrie exit Lazio 'tranquil' him go. He played a major role in establishing our youth acad- Graham, receives funding to season I've had at the club since as Milan close

HARRY REDKNAPP has insisted By NEIL SILVER he is not responsible for the West Ham board's decision to terminate the contract of their director of football. Peter Storrie.

Storrie will leave Upton Park at the end of this season and be replaced by the Sheffield Wednesday secretary, Graham Mackrell, who will assume the role of company secretary.

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There have been suggestions that Storrie's exit is the result of differences between himself and be wants to change the structure Redknapp. The pair had a public row after the Hammers won at Derby earlier this season because Andy Impey was being sold to balance the books against the manager's wishes.

However, Redknapp said

on the World Youth Cup today

when Japan and Spain, who

have surprised even them-

selves by getting so far, meet in

to Brazil by a single goal, but

Japan's appearance is the

biggest turn-up the tourna-

ment has seen since Qatar

going down 4-0 to Germany.

the final. Spain reached the final

A NEW name will be inscribed By DAN MASTERS

12 years ago when they lost out pect to get this far."

today: "Peter and I get on absolutely fantastically and to suggest otherwise is absolute nonsense. We have had one argument in six years working together, and I am very disappointed that he will be leaving the club.

"I was shocked when Peter told me the news vesterday. It is the chairman's decision because of the club, and this has got nothing to do with the Andy Impey out socially with our wives two days after that all blew up.

"Peter has been great for

"I am proud of my players,"

His Spanish counterpart,

said Japan's coach, Philippe

Troussier "Of course I didn't ex-

Inaki Saez Ruiz, who described

the idea of reaching the final as

emy and he has backed me and my staff all the way." Hammers striker Paolo Di

Canio has been fined £900 after a row with an Italian traffic policeman. The case dated back to June 1997 when Di Canio was visiting Terni, his wife's home town, and tried to drive into an area restricted to permit-holders.

captain. However, he stressed sort out," he said. that he is keen to stay with West Ham, and I am sorry to see Spurs, where he started his ca- age and everything to do with and I don't need to move."

they simply ran around a lot."

who collected a second vellow

semi-final win over Uruguay.

strengthen the squad.

The 24-year-old England rope's leading clubs, began neextending his contract, which has two years to run.

Today, the Hammers travel before signing a new deal, and to keep the ball rolling, not take across London to White Hart he is keen to see Tottenham pieces away. Lane where talks between Tot- build on their success after wintenham Hotspur and Sol Camp- ning the League Cup this seabusiness. We were going back bell about a new contract have son. "There are a few problems happen. We're moving in the hit a snag, according to the club on the table which we've got to

I broke into the side six years ago. We had a great team the defender coveted by some of Eufirst time Jürgen Klinsmann was here, but that side broke up gotiations recently about at the end of the season, which was not good.

"Hopefully this time it won't However, it is thought Camp- be the same. You've got to keep bell is waiting to see whether the your core side and add to it, as club's ambitions match his own all the best teams do. You've got for a European final for the sec-"I've got two years left on my

contract so a lot of things can right direction and if we keep doing that, we'll see how it goes. "It's all about the right pack- I'm from London, I enjoy it here

Japan meet Spain in a surprise package night ago before two consecutive defeats and two straight victories for Milan threw the race wide open again. The two years ago but now they are land in the first round. They the 2006 World Cup have been se-Rome club had to cope with nuriously undermined by the presmerous absences in defence nically good," he said. "Before, professionals in their team and ident of football's world last weekend as they slumped governing body, Fifa's Sepp Blatto a 3-1 loss to Juventus, and ter, who is at the tournament. should recover all but the sus-"The World Youth Champipended Alessandro Nesta. However, it is the level of onship has worked but there is a quantum leap between that

team morale which most worries Eriksson before tomorrow's live Channel 4 game

ITALIAN PREVIEW BY GIDEON LONG

Winners' Cup semi-final on taking just one point in their last three games and seeing Milan Thursday failed to provide it. close to within a single point. True, the Romans qualified "Physically we're OK and ond consecutive year, but the psychologically we're reasonably OK, I'm not worried and I'd way they did it - on the away still be ready to bet on us wingoals rule after a soporific 0-0 draw in the second leg at the ning the title," said the Swede. Olympic Stadium - can have

Everybody keeps saying coach, Sven Goran Eriksson, that his side are truly in line for table today, just as we were a few months ago. The only thing Lazio appeared to have the that's changed in the last two championship secured a fortweeks is the size of our lead. We're only at risk if we lose our sense of tranquillity. Otherwise there won't be a problem because we have the best team '

> "For a whole month we can concentrate solely on the championship," he said. "Are we afraid that Milan are right exist in football."

Lazio's visit to struggling Sampdoria is arguably the easagainst Sampdoria in Genoa. travel to Udinese, Bologna, The biggest threat to his team Fiorentina and entertain Parma and now their closest League is the creeping self-doubt after on the last day of the season.

shortage of hotel beds, poor unthinkable a month ago, said reached the 1983 final before the supposed underdogs will be well as claiming victories over ons, Brazil. communications facilities and tough opponents. We met them the United States and Eng-Nigeria's hopes of hosting transport problems in Nigeria.

more balanced, they are tech- have only three First Division

The Asians will miss their were prevented from travelling

suspended captain, Shinji Ono, by the Japanese federation

TODAY

FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Aston Villa v Nottm Forest

2 Blackburn v Liverpool

3 Derby v Southampton 4 Evertrin v Charlton
5 Lekester v Coventry
6 Middlesbrough v Arsenal
7 Tottenham v West Ham
8 Wimbledon v Newcastle
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

9 Bristol City v Birmingham ...
10 Huddersfield v Barnsfey 13 Portsmouth v Stockport

OPR v Bradford City

14 Sunderland v Sheffield Utd

24 Millwall v Pre 24 Millwall v Preston
25 Northampton v Colchester
26 Norts County v Luton
27 Oldham v Gillingham

THIRD DIVISION Darlington Halifax 34 Exeter v Rochdale
35 Leyton Orient v Shrewsbury
36 Mansfield v Hartlepool
37 Scarborough v Cardiff
38 Scundrorpe v Barnet
39 Southend v Brentford
- Swansea v Plymouth
- Torquay v Rotherham

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAG

y 3

SECOND DIVISION
East Fife v Arbroath

Forfar v Alica Inverness CT v Partick ... Queen of South v Clyde...

Hereford v Kussineri o Darishius.
Kingstonlan v Forest Green
Northwich v Yeovil
Southport v Leek Town
Stevenage v Kidderminster
Telford v Doncaster
Welling v Morecambe

- Welling v Morecambe

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Aylesbury v Aldershot Tin: Basingstoke v Slough: Boreham Wood v St Abaris. Bromley v Chesham: Carshalton v Billericay Tin: Dagenham & Redbridge v Hendon: Dulmich v Gravesent, Enfield v Hampton: Harrow Borough v Purfueer: Heybridge v Bishop's Stortford; Walton & Hersham v Sutton Utd. First Division: Berkhamsted Town v Bognor Regis Town: Camey Island v Chertsey Town: Grays Athletic v Whyteleafe; Hitchin Town v Veading: Leatherhead v Leyton Pennant: Maldenhead Utd v Croydon; Molesey v Ovford City, Staines Town v Barton Rovers; Uxbridge v Braintree Town, Wembley v Romford; Worthing v Wealdstone Second Division: Abbingdon Town v Toxing & Mitcham: Banstead Athletic v Witham Town: Barking v Horsham; Bedford Town v Hungerford Town; Bracknell Town v Leighton Town: Edgware Town v Thame Utd. Henel Hempstead v Chalfont St Peter: Marlow v Harlow Town, Met Police Welsteinham Town; Windsor & Eton v Utd: Hernel Hempstead v Chalfont St Peter: Marlow v Harlow Town, Met Police v Wokingham Town: Windsor & Eton v Hertford Town: Wivenhoe Town v Northwood. Third Division: Aveley v Flackwell Heath; Dorking v Lewes: Egham Town v Cheshunt: Hornchurch v Clapton; Kingsbury Town v Ford Utd; Southall v Coninth-

Barrow v Woking....... Farnborough v Hednesford Hayes v Cheltenham Hereford v Rushden & Diamonds...

an Casuals: Tilbury v East Thurrock Utd. Ting Town v Croydon Athletic, Ware v Ep-som & Ewell: Wingate & Finchley v Cam-berley Town.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:
Emiey v Colwyn Bay: Frickley v Gainsborough; Lancaster v Hyde Ud; Leigh RMI
v Chorley, Runcorn v Accrington Stanley,
Whitby Town v Spernymoor. Winsford Urd v
Stalybridge, Worksop v Gulseley, First
Division: Belper Town v Bradford PA,
Farsley Celtic v Burscough, Filton v
Droylsden: Great Harwood Town v Alfreton Town; Harrogare Town v Gretna.
Lincoln Urd v Witton Abinon, Matlock Town
v Trafford: Netherfield Nendal v Ashton
Urd. Radeliffe Borough v Eastwood
Town; Stocksbridge PS v Congleton
Town: Whitley Bay v Hucknall Town
DR MARTTENS LEAGUE Premier Di-UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:

Town: Stocksbridge PS v Congleton Town: Whitley Bay v Hucknall Town DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bath City v Tarnworth: Bromsgove v Weymouth; Crawley Town v Atherstone; Dorchester v Gressey Powers, Grantham v King's Jum; Halesowen v Hastings: likeston Tn v Gloucester City: Merthyr v Boston Utd; Nuneaton v Pothweil Town, Salisbury v Burton Albon, Worcester City v Cambridge City Southern Division: Bashley v Baldock Town; Drelmsford City v Tonbridge Angels, Dartford v Corby Town: Enth & Belvedere v Andover; Fleet Town v Ashford Town; Folkestone Invicta v Brackley Town, Margate v Newport (IoW): Raunds Town v Havant & Waterloowille; Sittingbourne v Circencester Town; St Leonards v Wiltney Town; Vate Town v Risher Athletic London, Midland Divisions: Bilston Town v Weston-superford Town v Reddirch Utd; Moor Green v Sutton Coldfield Town: Paget Rangers v Bedworth Utd; RC Warwick v Stafford Rangers; Solinuli Boro v Shepshed Dynamo; Stamford AFC v Bloowich Town, Stourbridge v Hinckley Utd. V Rugby v Clevedon Town, Wisbech Town v Evesham Utd.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND

Utd.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND
FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Barweil v
Knypersley Victoria. Bridgnorth Town v
Oldbury Utd. Chasetown v Boldmere St
Michaels: Halesowen Harmers v Stratford
Town: Pershore Town v Shifnal Town.
Stapenhilt Rocester, West Midlands Police v Sandweil Borough.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEASUE First Division: Bedlington
Terners v Billingham Yown. Billingham Synthonia v West Auckland. Crook Town v
Dunston Federation, Essington v Tow Law

Dunston Federation, Easington v Tow Law Town: Newcastle Blue Star v Consett, Pen-rith v Jarrow Pooling, Seaham Red Star

because they did not get hecard for time-wasting in the 2-1 patitis B vaccinations in time. and the World Cup," said a se-Spain began the tournament with a well-deserved 2-0 winnior Fifa official, who cited the

Japan have knocked out Portugal, Mexico and Uruguay as over the three-times champi-

v Morpeth Town; Shildon v Chester Le Street: South Shields v Guisborough Town

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE

First Division: Glossop North End v Workington: Leek CSOB v Manne Road. Mossley v Vauxhall GM. Nantwikh Town v Holker Old Boys. Newcastle Town v Ramsbottom Utd. Rossendale Utd v Cikheroe, St Helens Town v Aherton Col-lieries: Salford City v Prescor Cables

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Erith Town v Thamesmead
Town: Faversham Town v Beckenham
Town, Herne Bay v Tunbridge Wells, Hythe
Urd v Slade Green, Lordswood v Deal
Town; VCD Arthetic v Greenwich Borough,
Whitstable Town v Canterbury City

Neots, Wootton v Cogenhoe.

UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
First Division: Chichester City v Eastbourne Town: Eastbourne Utd v Saltdean
Utd (2.0). Hailsham Town v Wick. Pagham
v Littlehampton Town, Redhill v Selsev.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier
Division: Bideford v Bridgort, Bridgewater Town v Westbury Urd, Brislington
v Yeovil TR; Caine Town v Backwell Utd.
Elmore v Bishop Surton: Paulton Fovers
v Barnstaple Town. Taunton Town v Chippenham Town

penham Town
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST Premier
Division: Arnold Town v Selby Town. Den-

are missing five top players who

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS FORECAST

am v AFC Totton; Whitchurch v Cowes:

Wimborne v Brockenhurst.

TENNENTS HIGHLAND LEAGUE CUP:
Peterhead v Keitir. Rothes v Fraserburgh: Buckle Thistle v Cove Rangers:
Huntly v Deveronvale; Lossiemouth v Elgin City: Naim County v Fores Mechanics: Brora Rangers v Clachnacuddin; Wick
Academy v Fort William.

SMIRNOPF IRISM LEAGUE Premier
Division: Ballymena v Gientoran;
Chitorville v Newry; Coleraine v Glenavon;
Crusaders v Linfield; Portadown v Omagh
Town. Hrst Division: Ards v Lume, Balyctare v Distillery; Camck v Lumavady Utd;
Dungannon Swifts v Bangor.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Bar-

Dungannon Swifts v Bangor.

LEAGUE OF WALLES: Aberystwyth v Barry Town (2.30): Bangor City v Conwy (2.30): Carmarthen Town v Haverfordwest (2.30): Hotywell v Cwmbran (2.30): Inter Cardiff Cable-tel v Rhyl. Newtown v Connah's Quay (2.30): Rhayader Town v Caersws (2.30): TNS v Caermarfon Town (2.30):

RUGBY LEAGUE JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE London v Warrington (6.30) .

RUGBY UNION 2.30 unless stated ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE

PREMIERSHIP TWO

Physician Countries Past Premer Physician Annold Town's Selby Town. Denaby United v Garforth Town: Glasshoughton Welfare v Liversedge, Malitby MW v Buston, North Ferriby United v Pontefract Cols Ossett Albion v Armthorpe Welfare, Pickering Town v Hallam; Staveley MW v Ossett Town, Thackey v Eccleshill Urd. Biachheath v Rugby (3.0)
Biascheath v Rugby (3.0)
Birstol v Exerce (3.0)
Corentry v Worrester (3.0)
Wakefield v Moseley (3.0)
Corentry Butter Country CHAMPIONSHIP North and Midlands League
One: Warwickstrie v Countria (3.0) (at Rugby)
North and Midlands League
Theo: Durham v Cheshire (3.0) (at Darington)
Northumberland v Lancashire
(3.0) (at Syston): Staffordshire v North
Midlands (3.0) (at Lichfield). South
League Theo: Berichire v Oxfordshire (3.0)
(at Reading): Sussex v Cornwall (3.0) (at
Worthing) South League Three: Hampshire v Middlesex (3.0) (at Bosingstoke),
Nert v Dorset & Wilts (3.0) (at US JEWSON FOOTBALL LEAGUE Premier Division: Bury Town v loswich Wander JEMSON POOTBALL LEAGUE Premier Divisions Buy Town v Joswich Wanderers, Diss Town v Hallstead Town Fellistome V Woodbindge Town Grein termouth Town v Stowmarket Town, Harwich & Parkeston v Fakenham Town Soham Town Rangers v Gorleston, Sudbury Town v Warton Urd Sudburv Wanderers v Newmarket Town, Warbory v Lowestoft Town, Wrosham v Maidon Town JEWISON WESSEX LEAGUE: Bemerron Heath v Downton, Christchurch v Ham-ble ASSC, Eastleigh v Eost Cowes, Fare-ham v Bournemouth Gosport v EAT-Lymington & New Milton v Portsmouth RN Moneyfields v AFC Newbury, Thatch-

Chatham). South League Four: Buck-inghamshire v Hertfordshire (3.0) (at Bietchley). Somerset v Eastern Counties (3.0) (at Bridgewater). REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Royal Naw WELSK NATIONAL LEAGUE

Neath v Pontypridd GROUP B Bridgend v Caerphilly
Newport v Aberauon
Hirst Division: Abertillery v Pontypool;
Bonymaen v South Wales Police, Cross Keys
v UWIC (Cardiff Inset; Maesteg v Llandovery; Merthyr v Rumney; Newbridge v
Dunwant, Tondu v Blackwood; Treorchy v
Tredegar.

iegar. ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLIES TENNENT'S VELVET CUP

Duns v Garnock (11.0).....

TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD Gordonians v Jed-Forest (12.45) (at Murrayfield) AIB LEAGUE Semi-final: Garryowen v St Marys. Second Division: Ballynahinch v Dolphin. Derry v Wanderers; Malone v Old Crescent; Portadown v Greystones; UCC v Dungannon.

HOCKEY EHI. Play-off first leg: Surbiton v Houn-slow (1.0).

slow (1.0).

BATTER LEAGUE Play-offs: Peterborough
Town v Edgoaston (2.0); Whitthurch v
Formby (2.30).

WOMEN'S CUP & PLATE Sensi-finals:
EH Cup: Slough v Cheimsford Highway
(2.0), Fyffes Leicester v Olton Terraquest (4.0). EH Plate: Hampstead & Westmusser v Bournemouth (10.0); Yeddington muster v Bournemouth (10.0); Yeddington v Deeside Ramblers (12.0) (at Milton Keynes Notional Studium) REPRESENTATIVE GAME: Irish Universities v British Universities (3 0) (at Aer Lingus, Dublin). welsh women's CUP Semi-finats: Swansea v UWIC (11.0); Penarth v Colwyn Bay (1.30). Plate semi-finals: Cwmbran BSC (9.0); Havertordwest v Howardians (4.0) (at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff)

BASKETBALL MATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE Champiouship Finals: First Dhriston: Phymouth V leaside (8.0), Second Dhriston: Birmingham v Taunton (3.0), Taird Dhriston: Hull v North London (11.0). Momen's First Dhriston: Sheffield v Thames Valley (6.0) Second Dhriston: Phymouth v Wandsworth (1.0) (or Guidford Spectrum).

OTHER SPORTS BOMING: British super-bantammelght title: P Mullings (holder, Harrow) v D Docherty (Glasgow) (at Planet ke, Pe-GOLF: Scottish Women's Strakeplay (at

MOTOR RACING: British Rally Cham-plouship: Pirell International Rally (of Cariste), British Superbilee Champi-conship: Qualifying round (at Outton Park). rank).

SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship (at The Crucible Theore. Sheffield)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL 3 O unless stated FA CARLING

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Wolverhampton v West Bromwich (1.0) BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE 3.0 unless stated

Wigan v Castleford
NORTHERN FORE Wigan v Castleford

NORTHERN FORD Premiership: Batley v Barrow: Doncaster v Whitehaven: Hull

KR v Featherstone; Hunslet v Rochdale;

keighley Lancasthe Lync; Odham v York;

Swinton v Leigh; Workington v Widnes. RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE

Newcastle v Gloucester (3.0) (3.0).
TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP South League One: Devon v
Gloucestershire (2.30) (at Barnstaple).
AIB LEAGUE Semi-final: Cork Constitution v Buccaneers (2.30).

HOCKEY

EH CUP Semi-finals: Cannock v South-gate (2.0): Old Loughtonlans v Reading (2.0). (2.0). RAF CARSERS YOUTH CUP Finals: Un-RAF CARRERS WOUTH CUP Finals: Under-16s: Millfield v Dean Close (11.30). Under-16s: Havant HC v Simon Langton CS (1.15). Under-16s. Repton v Millfield (3.30) (at Milton Neynes).
WELSH FINALS: Men's Cup Final: Whitchurch v USC Svanses (3.30). Mear's Plate Plant: Neath v UWiC (11.0). Women's Cup Final (1.0). Women's Cup Final (9.0) (at Sophia Gordens. Cordif).

OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: BUPA Great Caledonian Run

(at Balmorai Castle).

GOLF: Scottish Women's Strokeplay (at GOLP: Scottish Women's Strokeplay (or Troon).

MOTOR RACING: British Superbike Championship (or Outton Park).

RALLYING: Pirelli International Rally (or Carlisle).

SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship (at The Crucible Theotre, Sheffield)

Barnes has to fight one last battle

The former Liverpool legend is happy to help Charlton strive against the drop but has one eye on his future. By Clive White

gation dog-fights, is what a pedigree performer like John Barnes has been about all his career. It is tempting to suggest that that would still have been the case had the Newcastle United player not chosen to go on loan to struggling Charlton Athletic until the end of the season, but the truth is it is unlikely he would have got much of a look-in in Ruud Gullit's FA Cup final squad, and at 35 he still

The Addicks gave him the opportunity to do so, and besides he had the pleasure - if that's the right word - of one more day out at Wembley last season when Newcastle lost to Arsenal. Instead he has opted for end-of-season hassle by becoming the biggest name to pull on a Chariton shirt since Allan Simonsen 17 years ago. Barnes' stay is likely to be about as brief as the Dane's but, one hopes, relatively speaking, less costly. Indeed, it might prove to be

extremely rewarding for Charlton. Since his arrival, Barnes has found it as difficult to get into Alan Curbishley's starting line-up as Gullit's but, when he has done so. as at Upton Park recently, he has brought a steadying hand and a sense of order to Charlton's midfield maelstrom. This wise old bird could be particularly useful to Charlton at Goodison Park today, where there are likely to be more than a few headless chickens running around. If nothing else, he ought to feel at nome on Merseyside, where he enjoyed so much success as a

"We're into a cup final situation of our own now – four of them, to be exact," said Barnes. "We have to try to win this one on Saturday and then the next one, against Blackburn, and so on. The pressure of going for a championship ton can hang in there the play-ning 1-0. It happens, but you're and the pressure of trying to ers will gain from an extra more likely to concede goals." avoid relegation is exactly the year's experience, they will be By the sounds of it, while he you want to succeed."

He has been impressed particularly with how the Charlton manager has handled it, although he does not believe that added anything in terms of how he believes he will even-

CUP FINALS, rather than rele- wouldn't like to manage a team struggling against relegation," he said. But the manager here is excellent. He doesn't convey any of the pressure that he obviously must be feeling. Everyone's relaxed in training."

For a man who has played with the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Alan Hansen, Barnes is genuinely appreciative of the qualities of his fellow professionals at the club. "The spirit is fantastic," he said. They're a good, honest bunch

of lads who work hard for each other and they're very fit, one of the fittest group of players I've played with. Keith Jones' work-rate and fitness for a 34year-old is amazing, but that's something all the Chariton players have."

Barnes knows. however, that effort alone may not be enough if Charlton are to get that first toehold that is so crucial to a prolonged stay in the Premiership. Curbishley has been promised £10m in the summer to spend on new play-

'If the choice was to carry on playing or just manage at a club, I would choose to manage

pendent upon them still being in the Premiership. As Barnes remarked, the future looks strong with a healthy youth system ("Scott Parker, an England Under-20 player, looks an excellent prospect") and the re-

League," Barnes said. "Wimthe years have gone by. If Charl- block tackles in and end up winsame - you have to handle it if able to handle the situation better when they go away to big stadiums like Anfield and Old Trafford. If they can do so, the

future looks good for them." The home defeat to Totten-

would have done had Paul Mortimer not slipped as he took a second-half penalty, hitting the post with his shot. But then it wouldn't be Charlton if they didn't do things the hard way.

By rights, they ought to be dead and buried by now after eight consecutive League defeats in mid-season, yet here they are going into the closing stages of the season still clinging to the slender hope of survival. It was ever thus with Chariton.

And, of course, everyone, well everyone not associated with the relegation struggle. wants them to succeed, like the former Chief Constable of Warwickshire, who wrote in to commend the club on the behaviour of their youth players at a Manchester hotel in which he was staying recently. But then he was a West Ham supporter, which is tantamount to being family. A hooligan once remarked that there was no pleasure in setting upon Watford fans because it was like beating up your grandmother. Charlton are similarly inoffensive and no one wants to see them hurt by relegation.

Barnes expects a last-day-ofthe-season denouement though not if they defend like they did in the closing stages on Tuesday when the final goal in the 4-1 defeat was responsible for them dropping into the relegation zone. "The important thing for us at Goodison will be to try to silence the crowd in the first 20 minutes, frustrate both the team and the crowd by not allowing them too much of the ball," he said. "Against Spurs we sat back after we scored and I don't serves top of the Combination. think you can play like that. "The first year is always the You're hoping that for 90 minhardest in the Premier utes they are going to miss chances, you're going to head bledon have found it easier as clearances off the line, get

each of the managers he has played under, he clearly does not appear to have picked up their time at Newcastle when the experience he has had in his ham on Tuesday, when they the latter's introverted tactics short time at The Valley has scored first, was a bitter blow, were in stark contrast to their particularly as it came hard on days together at Liverpool in the heels of Saturday's draw at the late 1980s. "T've had very tually manage, which he hopes home to Leeds, a game they strong ideas for the last couple



United, Barcelona or Liverpool but it's not going to happen. I would like to play for as long as I can but, if the choice

club, Watford, in its friendliness and attachment to the local community. Watching Manchester United reach the Eu-

to the ban on English clubs.

"It serves no purpose to wonder whether we could have won the Champions' League in 1990 when I was at Liverpool to be doing next season. "I should have won and probably of years about how I want to was to carry on playing or just ropean Cup final in midweek because we weren't in it," he

pose to compare the Liverpool team of '87 with the United team of today. For me to be where I am now, not just professionally but personally, everything that happened in the past had to have happened and I'm happy where I am

English European hopes thwarted

BY JOHN NISBET

EUROPEAN FOOTBALLS governing body, Uefa, yesterday thwarted English clubs' hopes of a fourth place in next season's Champions' League. There had been reports that

a extra place would be granted if Manchester United were to win this year's European Cup final against Bayern Munich. But Uefa said that would only happen if Alex Ferguson's team finish outside the Premiership's top three - a highly improbable scenario.

A Uefa statement said: "The number of participating clubs from England depends upon Manchester United's final position in the Premier League. If Manchester United win the Champions' League final and also finish in first, second or third place in the Premier League, then three clubs from England would participate in the competition.

The League champions and runners-up would enter the first group stage directly and the third-placed team would play in the third qualifying round. However, if Manchester United win the final, but were to finish below third place in the Premier League, then four English clubs would qualify automatically in next season's Champions' League. Manchester United would qualify automatically as Champions' League title-holders, and would be joined by the teams which finish in first, second and third place in the Premier League.

England are, however, still in contention to win an additional Fair Play place in the Uefa Cup. A Uefa spokesman said: "The top [Fair Play] country automatically gets a Uefa Cup place and there are also two more which will be decided by ballot in early June. At the mo-ment there is a good chance that England might get one. The Fair Play place would go to the team who are top of the English FA's own Fair Play league. I understand that team is currently Sheffield Wednesday." England are currently second in the Fair Play rankings, between the leaders, Scotland, and Norway.

United and Bayern Munich will each receive 30,000 tickets for the European Cup final in Barcelona, Spanish organisers said yesterday. The increase of 5,000 per team was announced after a meeting about security

arrangements for the final Uefa had said on Thursday that each club would receive only 25,000 tickets for the final, at the Nou Camp on 26 May. The original decision sparked protests from fans and fears about crowd trouble.

Jan Molby, the former Liverpool midfielder and Swansea City manager, will manage the Nationwide Conference club Kidderminster Harriers next season. The Dane will replace

Derby Count

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Burley keeps pressure at bay Uefa boost for NATIONWIDE LEAGUE in evidence at Queen's Park Rangers today. promotion from the Third Division, have been rebuffed in Vision, have been rebuffed in Vision.

THE TENSION is beginning to grip as Ipswich Town and Bradford City set their sights on the BY ROB PARRISH second automatic promotion place behind the First Division champions, Sunderland.

Both clubs lost their nerve when they were beaten last Saturday, but the Portman Road club gained a three-point advantage on the men from Valley Parade when they beat side surrender their First Di-Stockport County 1-0 at home in midweek.

Even so, the Ipswich manager, George Burley, is ready for more game but if Ipswich beat the season to go to the wire as he prepares his side for the visit of the bottom club. Crewe Alexandra, today. "It is still very tight," he warned. "With" only three games left, there is bound to be tension in the team, but it is nice to be in this position having to deal with that tension and pressure."

The atmosphere is just as vision status. "If we win on Saturday, we

can maybe afford to lose one us then we will have to win our last three," Gradi said. "I haven't found any tension in the team yet. We all know what we've got to do."

The Bradford manager, Paul Jewell, is determined that the defensive errors which allowed Huddersfield to win 3-2 at Valley Parade last week will not be

tense at the foot of the table, where Crewe have kept battling to stay afloat. However, even their ever-optimistic manager, Dario Gradi, admits that defeat in Suffolk today could see his

ing on defending from the front, through the midfield and to the back four," Jewell said. "That was what we were doing earlier in the season and maybe we had got out of that habit hopefully that will solve the problem at QPR and we can take all three points to keep the pressure on Ipswich."

The champions, Sunderland, will end Sheffield United's slim play-off hopes with a home victory today, Sunderland's Stadium of Light will be included in England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals. The club confirmed yesterday that they have been informed the 42,000-capacity stadium will be among 15 included in the "A list" for the bid document

Brentford, who are chasing

Road with both Queen's Park Rangers and Wasps rugby club next season. The Bees have long-term plans to sell their Griffin Park home to property developers and build a new multi-sports stadium at Heston.

granted special dispensation by the Football League to sign the Swindon Town goalkeeper Jimmy Glass on loan, despite the transfer deadline having passed a month ago. Derby County have recalled Richard Knight from his loan spell, leaving Carlisle without a senior goalkeeper as they seek to

near Heathrow airport, but now seem set to stay at their current ground for a while longer.

Carlisle United have been stave off relegation from the Third Division.

KILMARNOCK WILL qualify for the Uefa Cup next season if they retain their current third place in the Scottish Premier League. European football's governing body has been meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, this week

> ing rules for next term's two club competitions. Next season, the Scottish champions go into the Champions' League qualifying competition, while the Premier League runners-up and the Scottish Cup winners go into

and has clarified the qualify-

the Uefa Cup. It had been mooted that because Rangers and Celtic are gestions that Dundee United, who lost 2-0 to Celtic, and St Johnstone, beaten 4-0 by Rangers, might be offered a one-off play-off to determine Scotland's third European

Now, though, it has been confirmed that the thirdplaced Premier League team, currently Kilmarnock - with St Johnstone the only team capable of overtaking them - will take the second Uefa Cup place, A Uefa spokesman said: "There will be no play-off, because the teams in the Cup SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

two League placings, then the third-placed team in the championship will take the cup position." Aberdeen could indirectly

benefit because of the complicated procedure of qualification through Uefa's Fair Play rankings. In January, Scotland led the rankings meaning, the team north of the border with the best individual ranking would also enter the Uefa Cup next sea-

Kilmarnock led that list at the last count but, should they make it automatically by finishing third, Aberdeen, the next highest club outside the Old Firm, are in line to be offered an unlikely place.

The Scottish Premier League plans to extend its winter shutdown to four weeks next season to allow for the Millennium celebrations. An experimental three-week break this term was deemed a success and will now be extended to incorporate virtually the whole of January 2000. The change means the traditional New Year Old Firm derby is likely to be switched to Boxing Day.

The Polish international midfielder Dariusz Adamczuk is poised to join Celtic from final are the same as in the top Dundee for a nominal fee.

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH TABLES FA CARLING

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION FIRST DIVISION

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Ravanelli fancies Fiorentina move

mer Middlesbrough striker, is selling him. desperate to return home to Italy so that he can seek re- makes me happy," he said. venge on another of his old "We'll have to see what hapclubs, Juventus.

currently with Marseilles but on those who sent me away in being linked with a move to the first place." Fiorentina, won the European Cup with Juventus in 1996 only are traditionally deadly rivals weeks before being sold to Mid- and some in Florence would not dlesbrough for £7m. He scored 31 goals in his short stay the Juve player. But the striker pears that he has never for- rence one day I want everyone player had a buy-out clause of be a more affordable fee.

"Fiorentina's interest really pens, but joining them would The Italian international, enable me to take my revenge

Juventus and Fiorentina fans welcome the arrival of a former programme at the club.

for the team's colours, whoever that might be."

In Spain, Real Madrid moved swiftly yesterday to slap down rumours of the imminent departure of Roberto Carlos. The Brazilian wing-back has been widely tipped to leave Real at the end of the season as part of a massive rebuilding

The Real president Lorenzo Teesside club - but it now ap- said: "If I were to make it to Flo- Sanz, who said this week the

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI, the for- given the great Turin club for there to know that I'm someone around £70m in his contract, inwho gives everything they have sisted he is not for sale. "Roberto Carlos is a Real Madrid player and we have no intention of selling him." Sanz said. "He is not available for transfer. There's nothing more to say."

His former club in Italy, Internazionale, have reportedly been leading the chase for the Brazilian, while Milan and Juventus have also been interested. His agent has insisted that the buy-out clause is in fact only around £8m, which would

first and second in the League and also in the Scottish Cup final - thereby taking two of the European spots - the losing cup semi-finalists might profit. That prompted sug-

صكدا س الرمل

Weekend guide to the Premiership



Leeds United v Manchester United

Last season: 1-0



LEEDS COULD be without Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, their leading scorer, and midfielder David Hopkin for tomorrow's game at Elland Road with the Premiership aders. Manchester United.

Hasselbaink, who has scored 15 Premiership goals, left the field against Charlton last week with a hamstring problem, and that is likely to lead to 18-year-old Alan Smith partnering the 20-year-old Harry Kewell up front in one of the youngest

strike pairings to grace the Premiership. Hopkin has an ankle injury and with Alfie Haaland on international duty with Norway. Gunnar Halle out (knee) and Bruno Ribeiro (knee) also struggling it could lead to a re-

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

only just returned from Nigeria where he has been on Republic of Ireland duty in the World

Under-20 Championships.
After seven consecutive wins Leeds have drawn their last two matches and tomorrow is the start of a run-in that sees them play all three teams above them in the League.

Leeds have a good record against their arch rivals at Elland Road in recent years, winning three of the last four - the only loss in that time, 4-0 in 1996, effectively forcing the dismissal of Howard Wilkinson.

In the last 10 years, four League games have ended goalless while in the fixture at call for Stephen McPhail. The midfielder has Old Trafford in November David O'Leary's

young side gave an excellent account of themselves before losing 3-2.

Manchester United must squeeze six matches into the last three weeks of the eague campaign and Alex Ferguson will have to make sweeping changes for the game which has an 11.30am kick-off. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ronny Johnsen join Haaland on international duty with Norway, while Jaap Stam, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and

Andy Cole are struggling with injuries. Stam has Achilles trouble, Giggs is still recovering from his ankle problem, while Scholes has a sore knee and Cole an ankle

The loss of Stam would be a huge blow to United as they are already missing two other

Wimbledon's

recent years.

Joe Kinnear, whose

sterling efforts have made his side the

clear 'south of the

Thames' leaders in

Average gate

this season 3,224

19,781

17.719

7,042

11,798

15,127

10.952

20.000

20.146

19,179

Wimbledon

centre-backs, Johnsen and Henning Berg, who has a medial knee ligament injury.

Ferguson could turn to David May, who came on as a substitute against Sheffield Wednesday last week for his first taste of Premiership action this season, and Wes Brown, named on Thursday alongside Leeds' Jonathon Woodgate in Kevin Keegan's England squad for Hungary, or move Gary Neville across from right-back.

ACTOS ITOM Fight-Gack.

LEEDS UNITED (from): Marryn, Radebe, Wetherall, Wijnhard, Hasselbaink, Ribeiro, Bowyer, Hopkin, Granville, Kewell, Harre, Knarvilk, Batry, Woodgate, MCPhall, Smith, Jones, Robinson.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichel, G Neville, Irwin, May, Beckham, Butt, Cole, Sheringham, P Neville, Curris, Blomquist, Giggs, Keane, Van Der Gouw, Scholes, Yorke, Nevland, Clegg, Casper, Brown, Greening.





Aston Villa v **Nottingham Forest**

Last season: no fixture

PAUL MERSON is standing by to start his first game for Aston Villa for more than a month. The England international, on the bench for the last five games, could be called upon to take over from Lee Hendrie as Villa seek to extend their unbeaten run to five games. Hendrie is struggling with an ankle injury while Alan Thompson is definitely out, with a hamstring problem. Villa have only lost at home to Forest once in their last nine meetings at Villa Park, 2-0 in October 1994.

Forest will be without no fewer than eight senior players. Ron Atkinson's men, who need to win at Villa Park to keep alive their slim hopes of Premiership survival, are unable to call upon the suspended trio of Carlton Palmer, Richard Gough and Christian Edwards. To make matters worse for Atkinson, he is also without Jon Olav Hjelde, Nigel Quashie, Geoff Thomas, Thierry Bonalair and Hugo Porfirio, who are all nursing injuries. The Norwegian defender Stale Stensaas is facing a late fitness test and Atkinson is likely to give winger Ian Woan his first start of the season. Jesper Mattsson and Chris Bart-Williams are

also likely to return to the starting line-up.

ASTON VILLA (probable): Bosnich, Warson, Calderwood, Southgate, Wright, Merson, Taylor, Draper, Stone, Joachym, Dublin.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): Crossley, Louis-Jean, Lyrde, Rogers, Stensaas, Cherte, Mattsson, Allou, Johnson, Bart-Williams, Woan, Van Hoogdonk, Freedman, Shipperley, Harewood, Darcheville, Beasant. Suspensions: Forest: Palmer, Gough, Edwards. Referee: P Durkin,



Blackburn Rovers y Liverpool

Last season: 1-1

BLACKBURN'S MANAGER, Brian Kidd .will await last-minute fitness tests on Stéphane Henchoz, Christian Dailly and Gary Croft before deciding how to plug the gaps in his injury and suspension-hit side. First-choice left-back Callum Davidson serves a one-match ban, and with Jeff Kenna out for the season, Kidd has no other fully fit recognised deputy. Keith Gillespie is also suspended, but Kevin Gallacher is expected to continue his rehabilitation up front alongside top scorer Ashley Ward.

Liverpool are close to achieving two unwanted records as they face 18th-placed Blackburn. Currently 10th, Gerard Houllier's side are in danger of their lowest top-flight finish since they were relegated in 1953-54. The current tally of just 12 victories this season threatens to be their worst in any division since 1954 - they need four wins from their last five games to avoid that record. The Anfield side are without Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler, Patrik Berger and Steven Gerrard today. David Thompson, injured in the 1-0 home defeat by Leicester on Wednesday, should have recovered from a calf problem. BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): Filan, McAteer, Henchoz, Broomes, Taylor, Dallly, Croft, Johnson, Dunn, Marcolin, Carsley, Wilcox, Duff, Ward, Gallacher, Davies, Blake,

TIMERPOOL (from): James, Song, Carragher, Babb, Matteo, Staunton, Bjornebye, Thompson, Ince. Redknapp, Leonhardsen, McManaman, Riedle, Dundee, Friedel, Kvarme, Ferri. ons: Blackburn: Davidson, Gillesple



Derby County v Southampton

Last season: 4-0



DERBY'S MIDFIELDER Stefano Eranio returns today to ease Jim Smith's lengthy casualty list after missing five weeks with a calfinjury. The Italian will be joined by goalkeeper Mart Poom and striker Deon Burton in making comebacks after last week's 5-1 thrashing at West Ham. Poom, less than fully fit with a hamstring problem, replaces Russell Hoult, who starts a threematch ban. Tony Dorigo is Smith's latest casualty, joining Igor Stimac, Vas Borbokis and Rory Delap on the sidelines. Ken Monkou returns to strengthen Southampton's defence

in place of the banned Claus Lundekvam. Matt Le Tissier is expected to recover from hamstring and calf injuries, while Lat-vian striker Marians Pahars is available to play after being granted permission to join up late for international duty next week. Mark Hughes has a back injury, while David Hughes faces a fitness test on a knee problem. David Hirst and John Beresford could both figure after scoring for the reserves in midweek, but goalkeeper Paul Jones and defender Richard Dryden will miss the remainder of the season with back and knee injuries. DERBY COUNTY (from): Poom, Prior, Carbonari, Schnoor, Laursen. Powell, Eranio. Bohinen, Burton, Sturridge, Beck, Warchope, Harper, Christie, Jackson. Bridge-

Wilkinson. Murray.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): Moss, Dodd, Monkou. Benall. Colleter. Le Tissier, Marsden. D Hughes, Kachioul. Beattle, M Hughes, Ostenstad, Pahars, Hiley, Bridge, Monk. Stensgaard.



Everton v Chariton Athletic

Last season: No fixture



EVERTON HAVE Nick Barmby available again after suspension and are also boosted by Olivier Dacourt's escape from an FA ban earlier this week as they prepare for today's crucial relegation battle at Goodison Park. Craig Short and Kevin Campbell have both shaken off knocks and should play as Everton strive for three successive League wins for the first time since October 1996.

Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, has an almost fullstrength squad to choose from with right-back Danny Mills available after suspension. Goalkeeper Simon Royce has started training after his injury lay-off but is well short of match fitness and Andy Petterson will continue in goal. Centre-back Richard Rufus could be playing his last game of the season unless the club manage to overturn his ban for being sent off against Leeds last Saturday.

Joint leading scorer Clive Mendonca could return to the starting line-up in place of either Andy Hunt and Martin Pringle with a lack of goals - just five in the last eight games - a major worry for Curbishley after Tuesday's 4-1 defeat by Spurs sent them back into the relegation zone.

Dack into the relegation zone. Everton (from): Myhre, Weir, Short, Watson, Unsworth, Ball, Barmby, Hutchison, Dacourt, Genmill, Jeffers, Campbell, Cadamarteri, Bakayoko, Granz, Oster, Degn.

Charlton Athletic (from): Petterson, Powell, Brown, Youds, Mills, Tiler, Rulus, Barnes, Bowen, Kinsella, Redfearn, Hunt, Pringle, Bright, Stuart, K Jones, S Jones, Mortimer, Konchesky, Parker, Barness, Salmon.

...And statistics

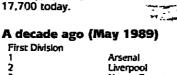
Down and out down south

THE MOST sombre southern scenario would leave the six million people living in the eastern corner of England (south of the Thames) with but one Premiership representative next season: Wimbledon, Southampton, all season, and Charlton, since Christmas, have been fighting for their Premiership lives. Ten years ago, four clubs from that corner of England – Millwall, Wimbledon, Southampton and Charlton were mid table in the First Division and about to be joined via the play-offs by Crystal Palace. The year before, Portsmouth had made a one season appearance in the top flight to recall their halcyon days of the immediate post-war years.

For all the wealth that is concentrated in the southeast, the smallness of the stadiums must be a hindrance to its

football development. Charlton, Wimbledon and Southampton are in the relegation positions of the Premiership attendance table even though the The Valley and The Dell are regularly filled to capacity. And other grounds, modest in capacity, have room for more

Southampton have been flying the southern flag for 21 consecutive seasons at the top level and were joined in 1986-87 by the wonder-workers of Wimbledon, Crystal Palace have given occasional support in the 90s. In only two of the ensuing seasons have Wimbledon failed to finish above Southampton. The Dons are also gaining fans, with average gates growing from 7,800 in 1987 to



North Forest Derby Tottenhan Coventry Man Utd Luton Aston Villa Middlesbrough

Brighton

Charlton

Crystal Palace

Wimbledon

Portsmouth

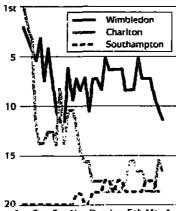
Southamptor

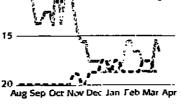
Premiership

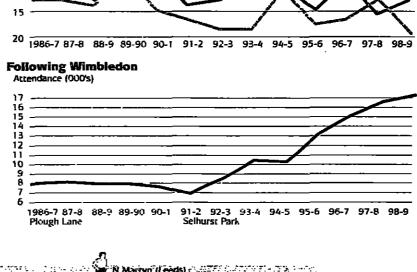
The Dons outdo the Saints

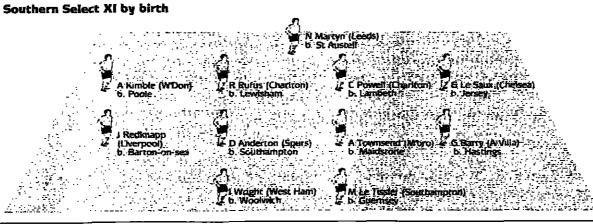
West Ham Newcastle Chelsea Crystal Palace

The Southern Story of this season









Seven post-war top flight southern sides

(Priestfield.

Gillingham)

The Valley

The Den

Selhurst Park

Selhurst Park

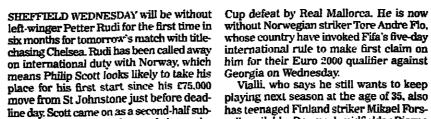
Fratton Park

TOMORROW'S OTHER MATCH (4PM)



Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea

Last season: 1-4



his first for the club - which gave the Owls a point from a 1-1 draw with Newcastle. The Chelsea player manager, Gianluca Vialli, could return to lead the attack against Wednesday at Hillsborough after now serves a one-match suspension for his injury kept him out of the 1-0 Cup-Winners'

stitute in midweek and scored the goal -

without Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo. whose country have invoked Fifa's five-day international rule to make first claim on him for their Euro 2000 qualifier against Georgia on Wednesday.

Vialli, who says he still wants to keep playing next season at the age of 35, also has teenaged Finland striker Mikael Forssell available. Denmark midfielder Bjarne Goldback, who like Forssell was cup-tied for Chelsea in Europe, should also return to the starting line-up on Sunday.

England full-back Graeme Le Saux much-publicised argument with Liverpool's Robbie Fowler earlier this season. Le Saux also has an ankle injury after Thursday's game, but goalkeeper Ed de Goey has suffered no reaction playing against Real Mallorca with a broken toe and is set to continue at Hillsborough. Chelsea have won on their last two trips to Hillsborough and have only lost once in

six Premiership visits. SIX Premiership VISIS.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): Smicek, Atherton.
Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Scott, Sanetti, Cobian, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Hinchcliffe, Cresswell, Emerson, Alexandersson, Sonner, Pressman, CHELSEA (from). De Goey, Ferrer, Lambourde, Leboeuf, Babayaro, Di Matteo, Desailly, Duberry, Petrescu, Wise, Poyet, Morris, Zola, Vialli, Forssell, Goldback, Nicholls, Newton, Hitchcock (gk)

Suspensions: Chelsea! Le Sauv.

Referee: 5 Dunn.

Leicester City v **Coventry City**

Last season: 1-1



EMILE HESKEY returns for Leicester City today after being called-up into the full England squad for their friendly in Hungary. Heskey has shaken off a throat infection which caused him to miss the midweek win at Anfield.

Leicester's manager, Martin O'Neill, is without Rob Ullathorne (broken leg), while Gerry Taggart (hamstring) and Muzzy Izzet (hamstring) both face late fitness tests.

Coventry's manager, Gordon Strachan, faces the prospect of going into the game without nine of his first-team players. He will be definitely be without Roland Nilsson (ribs), Steve Ogrizovic (neck). Steve Froggatt (hamstring), and the suspended Noel Whelan and Gary McAllister.

Ther are also serious doubts over the availability of Paul Telfer who sustained a dead leg at Everton two weeks' ago, Magnus Hedman, who damaged stomach muscles in last week's defeat by Middlesbrough, and Trond Soltvedt and Marc Edworthy, who were both hurt in training. The Belgian international Philippe Clement and Marcus Hall return to the squad.

LEKESTER CITY (from): Keller, Arphesad, Taggart, Sinclair, Walsh, Izzet, Lennon, Heskey, Parker, Guppy, Gunnlaugsson, Savage, Kaamark, Campbell, Miller, Elliott, Marshail, Fenton, Impey, Wilson, Cottee, Oakes, Zagorakls.

COVENTRY CITY (from): Hedman, Breen, Shavv. Writiarns, Burrows, Boateng, Soltvedt, Huckerby, Aloisi, M Hall, Clement, P Hall, Gloacchini, Delorge, Konikc, Edworthy, Quinn, Kirkland.

ns: Coventry: McAllister, Whelan.



Middlesbrough v Arsenai

Last season: no fixture



MIDDLESBROUGH WILL be without Paul Gascoigne and Gianluca Festa for the visit of Arsenal. Gascoigne is out with a dead leg and Festa has a hamstring strain. Defender Gary Pallister and midfielder Keith O'Neill are both rated as having 50-50 chances of starting, after hip and thigh problems re-Dennis Bergkamp is a major doubt for Arsenal. The Dutch

striker, who bounced back from missing a penalty in Arsenal's FA Cup semi-final defeat last week to become their top scorer this season on 16 goals (with one of the five against Wimbledon), has a groin injury. He was substituted after 70 minutes on Monday and must face a fitness test. Nicolas Anelka. who was rested for the Wimbledon game, will return, if Bergkamp misses out, to partner Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu in attack. Rightback Lee Dixon returns after an ankle injury but centre-back Martin Keown is suspended and Steve Bould steps in. Bergkamp's injury casts a doubt over his availability for the Netherlands' friendly against Morocco next Wednesday.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): Schwarzer, Beresford, Stockdale, Baker, kinder, Vickers, Pallister, Cooper, Gordon, Summerbell, Maddison, Mustoe, Townsend, O'Neill, Ricard, Deane, Armstrong, Campbell,

ARSENAL (from): Seaman, Dison. Adams. Bould, Winterburn. Parlour, Vieira. Pent. Overmars. Anelka. Kanu, Bergkamp. Vivas. Grimandi. Hughes, Garde, Diawara.



Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham United

Last season: 1-0



THE TOTTENHAM manager, George Graham, has virtually a full squad to chose from as his side prepare for an assault on the Premiership's top six. Les Ferdinand and Andy Sinton, however, will be rested today. Ferdinand's Achilles injury, which has kept him out of the last two matches, and Sinton's ankle injury, sustained in the FA Cup semi-final, are healing ahead of schedule. Both players are expected to be fit before the season comes to an end. Goalkeeper Ian Walker, omitted from Kevin Keegan's England squad to play Hungary next week, said yesterday: "I'm happy with the way this season has turned out, considering I wasn't in the first team in August. Amazingly, I think this is the best season I ever had, and that is thanks to George Graham."

West Ham's Steve Potts is out for the season after suffering a knee injury in the Hammers' victory over Derby last week. His absence will give the manager. Harry Redknapp, a selection problem in defence. Marc-Vivien Foé and Neil Ruddock are suspended and Redknapp is hoping Rio Ferdinand pass-

а с эморением ани neuknapp is hoping Rio Ferdinand passes a fitness on an ankle injury.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walter, Carr, King, Nilsen, Campbell, Taricco, Young, Freund, Sherwood, Nielsen, Fox, Dominguez, Clemence, Anderton, Iversen, Gincia, Armstrong, Baardsen (gk).

MEST HAM UNITED (from): Histop, Ferdinand, Pearce, Minto, Sinclair, Lomas, Lampard, Keller, Berkonc, Ot Canlo, Wright, Cote, Moncur, Lazaridis, Forrest, Abou, Holigan.

Suspensions: None



Wimbledon v **Newcastle United**





FALTERING WIMBLEDON must cope again without key defender Chris Perry as they search for their first win in eight games. Perry, who missed Monday's 5-1 defeat at Arsenal, has broken a bone in his foot and joins Wimbledon's lengthy list of casualties. The Dons were looking for their best-ever finish in the top flight before Joe Kinnear's illness, but with one draw and six defeats in their last seven matches, they are now not even realistically in with a shout to qualify for the InterToto Cup. Michael Hughes, Neal Ardley, Efan Ekoku and Jon Goodman are all out. Irish defender Kenny Cunningham has missed train-

ing this week but still hopes to be fit to play this afternoon. Newcastle will be without the long-term casualties Laurent Charvet (knee) and Duncan Ferguson (groin). French defender Didier Domi could be back in contention after missing the last three games through injury, and keeper Shay Given will return after being rested at Sheffield Wednesday in midweek, where an Alan Shearer penalty earned the Magpies a point from the

1-1 draw. WMMBLEDON (from): Sullivan, Cunningham, Kimble, Thatcher, Blackwell, Jupp, Roberts, Earle, Euell, C Hughes, Castledine, Ainsworth, Kennedy, Gayle, Hartson, Cort, Leaburn, Heald.

NEWCASTLE (from): Grvén, Harper, Barton, Griffin, Domi, Dabizas, Hughes, Beharall, Lee, Speed, Solano, Maric, Harnann, Ketsbaia, Shearer, Andersson, Pearce, Georgiadis, Brady, Suspensitions, Mone.

Referee: P Jones.



United's toughest test is domestic

AS Manchester United luxuriate in their European Cup semi-final win in Turin, the paradox is that it will be easier for them to be champions of Europe than champions of England. The talk may be of trebles but the troubles are likely to come on the domestic front.

One good performance against Bayern Munich on 26 May will make them rulers of the Continent but it is going to take six in the Premiership and as that includes trips to Leeds. Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Blackburn the title is by no means a foregone conclusion.

That programme is arduture most likely to trip them up last League defeat. Only Unit-

BY GUY HODGSON

then tomorrow morning's at Elland Road is the one. The bile for Alex Ferguson's team in Leeds is arguably more bitter than even that at Liverpool so if Roy Keane and co thought the atmosphere in the Stadio Delle Alpi on Wednesday was intimidating it will be nothing com-

pared to this. It would be a difficult fixture if Leeds were playing badly but they accumulated seven successive wins before being held to draws in their last two matches, and you have to go back to 6 February since their

ed and Arsenal have better

BARNES LAST BATHER 228

"Manchester United are a fantastic side." Jonathon Woodgate, the Leeds centreback who was called into his first England squad this week, said. "They're not liked because they win a lot of things but hopefully we'll be like that in a couple of years. I love playing against the best players because you find out how good you are. I can't wait for the game to tell you the truth."

The home team will be motivated but if Ferguson needs to gee up his players then he need only remind them of their reception at Manchester Airport in September when, by unhappy coincidence, the United

into Leeds fans going to Madeira. "You'd have thought we'd murdered their families." Gary Neville commented af-

By tomorrow United may

terwards.

be off the top of the table although, if they are. Arsenal will have become only the second side this season to succeed at the Riverside. History would suggest a draw because the Gunners have not won at Middlesbrough in their last four League visits while Boro have drawn more games than they

have won at home. Arsenal are also likely to be without their top scorer Dennis Bergkamp, who has an abdominal strain and has not

final defeat by United 10 days

"Without Dennis it's more difficult to score goals but at the moment all the other strikers are fit," the Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, said before paying tribute to Bergkamp's likely replacement. Nwankwo Kanu, "Since he has arrived he has improved a lot. What I like in his game is that he makes complicated situations look simple and he brings other players into the game.

Chelsea will be hoping both Leeds and Middlesbrough prevail because a season of much promise is suddenly looking barren and they require help from others if they can win the

sights, the championship. Still hey are likely to find Sheffield Wednesday accommodating tomorrow afternoop if the limp

While the true situation at top of the table will not become apparent until Chelsea finish that game, the clouded picture at the bottom of the Premiership should be clearer by 5pm today. Nottingham Forest will be relegated unless they defeat Aston Villa at Villa Park while Everton should have put their relegation worries away for at

performance they put up at

Old Trafford last week is a

With Southampton taking their lamentable away record to Derby, the time is ripe for Blackburn to earn themselves breathing space, particularly as they are meeting the team who are giving Forest the best run for their money in terms of bad

current form, Liverpool. On the same night that their great rivals were reaching their second European Cup final, Liverpool, four times champions of Europe, fell to their seventh defeat in their last 12 Premiership games and are hurtling towards two unwanted landmarks. Currently 10th. least four months if they defeat they are in danger of their low-Charlton at Goodison and est top-flight finish since they record three successive

party flying to Munich bumped trained since the FA Cup semi-one remaining trophy in their League wins for the first time were relegated in 1953-54 and into Leads fans using to final defeat by United 10 days.

ers on the sidelines means it's difficult for us," their manager, Gerard Houllier, said of the suspended Robbie Fowler and injured Michael Owen. "We're very handicapped on the offensive front and we have to overcome that. Sometimes you need some more experience and say 'OK, we can't score but let's get the point'."

The sooner the season ends, the better for Liverpool.

Clubs try to buy and shut Richmond

THERE WAS fun and games in the Allied Dunbar Premiership's bargain basement department yesterday as Bedford found themselves a new set of owners and Richmond swiftly rejected a hard-nosed - some would say cynical - manoeuvre by England's senior clubs to reduce the size of the league by paying off the their debts and closing them down. Any move towards a 12-team competition for next season now depends on whether another impoverished duo, London Scottish and West Hartlepool, can find ways of staying in business.

delays and threatened player strikes, Bedford were breathing the fresh air of hope after confirmation that Frank Warren. the boxing promoter, had sold his 90 per cent shareholding to Jefferson Lloyd International, a corporate consultancy with recently acquired interests in other sports, including football. The new owners, who were planning to address the players before this afternoon's home match with Northampton, intend to stay at Goldington Road and, local council willing, bring the ground up to 21st century speed.

"We're not in this for 12 months only, or as long as Bedford stay in the first division," said Gary Woods, an existing director who will sit on a new three-man management board. "It's a serious venture on our part and, while we're not chucking millions at the club, we're

RUGBY UNION

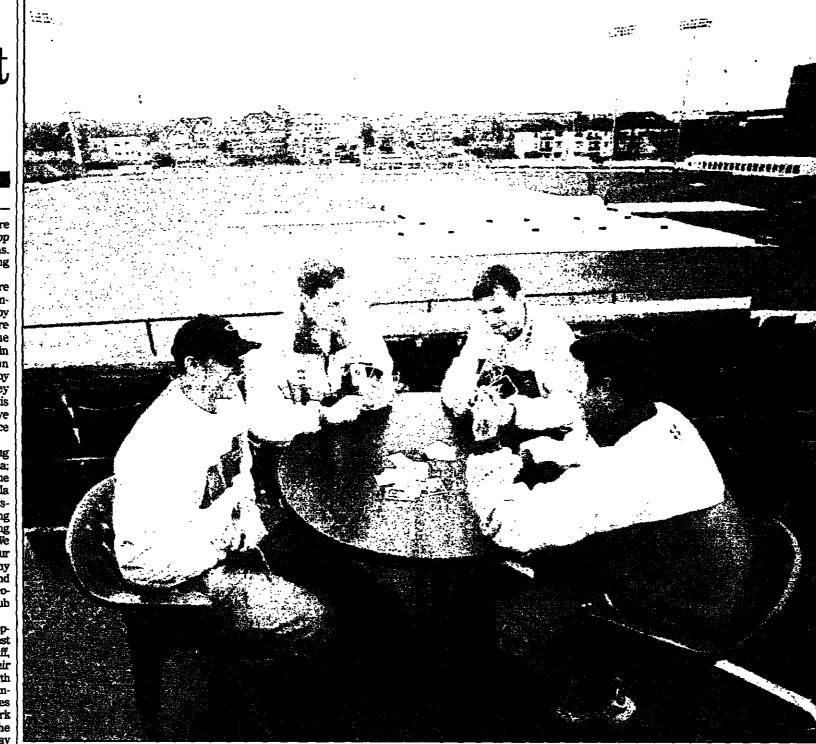
BY CHRIS HEWETT

committed to success. We're confident of staying in the top flight but, whatever happens. we'll work to keep the existing squad together."

Richmond, meanwhile, were "90 per cent confident" of generating sufficient new money by the end of next month to ensure a future for themselves in the professional game. Currently in administration financial following an abrupt decision by their major backer. Ashley After a harrowing season of Levett, to drastically reduce his high-profile resignations, salary investment, Richmond have just over five weeks to piece together a rescue package.

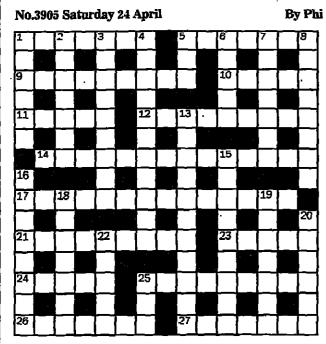
They know they are treading water in a shark-infested sea; English First Division Rugby, the powerful senior clubs' umbrella organisation, this week discussed the possibility of buying Richmond with a view to pulling the rug from under them. "We are fully determined to retain our independence," said Tony Haliett, the former Richmond chief executive who has coordinated the efforts of club loyalists to find new backing.

There were striking developments at one of Britain's richest clubs yesterday when Cardiff, now nearing the end of their season-long political battle with the Welsh Rugby Union, announced that Terry Holmes would vacate the Arms Park coaching job at the end of the season while only halfway



through a two-year contract. Northamptonshire's Matthew Hayden, Rob Bailey, David Ripley and Tony Pemberthy at a washed-out Hove yesterday

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



ACROSS Company doctor full of fun? (7) Crowd intend to chase

out English pedlar (7) Pressurised, head of school flusters badly (9) Caught the stench from the river (5) Open University's nev

12 Bewitched singer pulling up short in finale (9) One may have an eye for solving clues (9,5) 17 Reconstructed

arbour's area with oil lights at night (6,8) 21 The blaze, bursting out, traps one girl (9)
23 Make speech flowery?

That's not new (5) Take care about first of wood chopped (5) 25 What sounds like girl's next purchase in gardening store? (9) Symbol of revolution

holiday? (7) Urge senior teacher to produce clever

DOWN

Helmet question fea-tures in trial (6) Vehicle pulled up within distance - a wonder (7)
Drop out, being badly
appraised (9)
The sort of books that

show pictures of feet bound in rope? (6-5) China, white, slightly chipped (3) Exclamation by one

swallowing cold drink that should be hot (5) Expert seen in some art broadcast (7) Applied to "What the But ler Saw" machines? (5.3)

13 The cost of restaurant tablecloths? (5,6) 15 Spicy stuff popular in sailor's shanty (9) 16 Town lawyer in America raving "Hang 'em!" (8) 18 Track bird, having the

means (7) 19 Think I'm fashionable (and mature about it) (7) 20 Argue for termination after getting fed up (6)

22 Sound reproduction equipment imported by

byshire's first run? (3) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations . Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E145BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: K Kemp, Gosfield; G Alexander, Pevensey Bay; J Harris, Holmes Chapel; A Maguire, Dublin; J Myer, Bromley.

Counties struggling to keep heads above water

WITH THE second round of the County Championship due to finish today and just one positive result from the 11 matches completed so far, it would be fair to say the earliest-ever start to a season has not been a resounding success. Owing to weather more in keeping with, well, mid-April rather than midspring, the last domestic season before next year's streamlining of the first-class counties is tak-

ing an age to thaw. The reason for beginning on 13 April, when Durham's Chester-le-Street ground was snowbound, is a congested summer featuring the World Cup, followed by four Tests against New Zealand, the new National League and Super Cup and an

expanded NatWest Trophy. Mike Gatting, the England selector now installed as firstteam coach at Middlesex who, along with Warwickshire, were Championship cricket at Edg-

BY ADAM SZRETER

unfortunate enough to have two home Championship fixtures scheduled in the first two weeks. nevertheless believes the England Cricket Board has missed at least one trick.

"I think the World Cup has prompted everything to go into April this year and rain is just one of those things," Gatting said after his side's match against Lancashire was abandoned yesterday without a ball being bowled. The problem is that games can go on till 7.40pm and it gets very dark at that time. I think it was a slight oversight."

Warwickshire's Brumbrella might have saved more of their game with Somerset had flat sheets not been outlawed. Their chief executive, Dennis Amiss, said: "It is disappointing when you think that 25 per cent of our

baston is already over and we've only had a couple of innings against Northants and one

against Somerset "I can see pools of water all over the ground and Sunday's match against Worcester must be doubtful. For a local derby like that on a decent day you'd expect five or six thousand people, so

that could cost us about £25,000." At Leicestershire, where the match against Nottinghamshire was abandoned as a draw, manager Jack Birkenshaw called for a later start and finish.

"I believe that mid-April is far too early to be playing Championship cricket," he said. "I think it would be far better to start in May and go on until the end of September or early October."

It is hard to fathom how a game so dependent on the weather was invented in a country with England's climate. Scoreboard, page 21

season threatens to be their worst in any division since 1954. They need four wins from their last five games to avoid that. "The fact we have two strik-

A Kop close revolt will not be appeased by such negativity.

Players agree to World Cup deal

BY MYLES HODGSON

ENGLAND'S PLAYERS have averted a possibly damaging contract dispute ahead of this summer's World Cup by accepting revised terms offered by Lord's for the forthcoming

tourrament. Negotiations between the England and Wales Cricket Board and the 15-man squad, which both sides had hoped to have completed before their recent Coca-Cola Cup campaign in Sharjah, had become worryingly protracted and distracting. But, after being given a deadline of 26 April to sign the new contract, which would earn them around £45,000 per man should they become the first host country to win the World Cup, or risk being replaced in the final squad, the players have now signalled their in-

tention to sign the contract. "All the lads have now agreed to sign their contracts and we're looking forward to playing in the tournament and to hopefully achieving success," the England captain, Alec Stew-

art, said. The main stumbling block during the negotiations, which had a disruptive influence on morale during their time in Sharjah and the week-long training camp in Lahore, had been the structure of payment during the seven-week tournament. The players wanted a change to the disparity between being selected for the squad and playing in the World Cup, extra security in case of injury before the tournament began, and the difference between the basic fee and the bonus money brought closer to-

Those amendments to the original contract were agreed by the Board, although the players' hopes of matching the £1m promised to their rugby union counterparts for their World Cup were thwarted by the ECB chief executive Tim Lamb's insistence that no more money would be on offer. The fund will be made up of around £200,000 from the team sponsors Vodafone, £187,500 tournament prize money and the remainder coming from the ECB's coffers - which are limited by its failure to attract only four of the anticipated

eight World Cup sponsors. Although Lamb estimated English cricket would benefit by around £12m from the tournament, he underlined the ECB's responsibility to the grass roots of the sport and insisted the game would not over-stretch itself financially to suit the players. He said: "I'm pleased we've resolved the outstanding points in the contract. I'm sure everyone will now want to focus completely on the World Cup

IN MONDAY'S 12-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Derek Pringle on the Scotland team preparing to take on the leading cricket nations in the World Cup Glenn Moore reports from Elland Road as Leeds United aim to bring Manchester United back to earth Chris Hewett on Leicester's campaign to bring the English rugby union title back to Welford Road

3) Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Rand, Wathard and

Hollupword Avenue, Oldham, Back issues, available from Historic Newspapers, 81988 840370, Saturday 24 April 1999 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

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WEEKEND REVIEW

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COMMENT •
OLD JOKES:
20 YEARS OF THE
COMEDY STORE

ARTS, PAGE 10



ANNA PAVORD IN YOUR **BACK YARD**

GARDENING, PAGE 15



DOWN UNDER: IS DIVING THE **NEW SKIING?**

TRAVEL, PAGE 20



Players agree to Morld Cup deal



Discovered by an obscure 18th-century poet, inhaled by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, put to good use by dentists ever since, nitrous oxide is a most cultured gas. What's more, it makes you laugh...

April 1799, a young English poet resident in Bristol took up a green silk bag and set himself deliberately to inhaling a full four quarts of a mysterious new substance, generally known as gaseous of azote, or oxide of septon, or dephlogisticated nitrous gas. It was a brave, perhaps even a foolhardy experiment, but the youth's courage was rewarded almost instantly. He felt a "highly pleasurable thrilling, particularly in the chest and the extremities. The objects around me became dazzling and my hearing more acute. Towards the last inspirations, the thrilling increased..."

The reckless young poet and researcher (we would now call him a "scientist", a term still uncoined in 1799) was Humphry Davy; the substance was nitrous oxide, vulgarly referred to by generations of dental patients as "laughing gas"; and Davy's risky experiment, written up and published the following year as Researches, Chemical and Philosophical, Chiefly Concerning Nitrous Oxide... and its Respiration, made him an intellectual star at the age of 21.

Davy was quick to grasp at least some of the implications of his experiences, tentatively predicting that nitrous oxide "...may probably be used with advantage during surgical oper-ations in which no great effusion of blood takes place". Even in his exalted or (literally) "inspired" state, however, Davy was not quite prophet enough to foresee the future career of his gas in all its peculiarity. Two hundred years on, we can see that Davy's deep gulps of N2O had their consequences not just for dentistry but also for poetry, philosophy, psychology and show business; and the full implications of that pioneering encounter are once again becoming

the subject of lively debate. For example, the author and journalist Mike

wo hundred years ago, on 17 Jay, who has included several contemporary accounts of the nitrous oxide breakthrough in his forthcoming Penguin anthology of drug literature, Artificial Paradises, considers that Davy's heavy breathing marks "a significant - though largely unrecognised - milestone in the history of science and the modern mind", not least because: "As a deliberate intoxication by a new chemical substance not found in nature, it may ... stand as the birth of modern synthetic or "designer" drugs in general... it was the moment which opened the portal to world upon world of experience which, before Davy's experiment, would have been unimaginable."

Mr Jay's version of Humphry Davy as " the first modern psychonaut" may seem rather outlandish to those brought up on uplifting tales of Davy as the philanthropic gentleman who invented the safety lamp for miners. And yet it

BY KEVIN JACKSON

his friends and co-experimentalists, particularly his fellow poets. Robert Southey, for one, was quite clear about his hedonistic motives for assisting Davy, and wrote to one of his circle in terms of bubbling enthusiasm: "Oh, Tom! such a gas has Davy discovered! Oh, Tom! I have had some. It made me laugh and tingle in every toe and fingertip. It makes one strong, and so happy! So gloriously happy! Oh excellent gas bag! Tom, I am sure the air in heaven must be this wonderworking gas of delight."

The playwright John Tobin stressed the similarities between a hit of N2O and the exaltations of literary art. "The feelings," he wrote, "resembled those produced by a representation of an heroic scene on the stage, or by reading a sublime passage in poetry when circumstances contribute to awaken the finest sympathies of the soul." And though most readers will know something about Coleridge's long and sorry tryst

with opium, history has largely forgotten that he was also fond of nitrous oxide. After inhaling some. Coleridge reported that he "could not avoid, nor indeed felt any wish to avoid, beating the ground with my feet; and after the mouth-piece was removed, I remained for a few

seconds motionless, in great ecstasy". Later in life, Coleridge referred admiringly to Davy as "the Father and Founder of philosophic Alchemy, the man who, born a poet, first converted Poetry into Science and realised what few men possessed Genius enough to fancy".

With fans of this calibre, it was little wonder that Davy's discovery soon became the object of a craze, and that some of the leading public figures of the day made their way to Bristol to breathe his heavenly new air. Peter Mark Roget, later famous for his thesaurus but at the time a rising doctor, the engineer James Watt, isn't so very far from the view of Davy held by who gave Davy a hand with the construction of new gas masks and chambers; and the master potter Josiah Wedgwood.

Reputable men, one and all, but it was not long before the practice of inhaling N₂O became highly disreputable, not to say scandalous. Rumours began to spread about staid ladies driven to acts of gross impropriety by their inhalations. One of these reports spoke of a plucky miss who took her intoxicating lungful

and ran amok. "To the astonishment of everybody, the young lady dashed out of the room and house when, racing down Hope-square, she leaped over a great dog in her way, but being hotly pursued by the fleetest of her friends, the fair fugitive, or rather the temporary maniac, was at length overtaken and pursued, without further damage." (Something there for the next, "con-

troversial" TV adaptation of Jane Austen? Thanks to this and similar episodes, the practice of inhaling nitrous oxide came to be seen as dangerous and depraved. "Pneumatic Continued on page 2



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CULTURE



Richard Williams on the poet in Bruce Springsteen



How I came to look like this by Harold Pinter

COMMENT



Peregrine Worsthorne explains why this woman destroyed Conservatism

REAL LIFE



Why the Bible is required reading for the fashion crowd

PLUS Michael Bywater Alain de Botton Simon Singh **AN Wilson** Will Self



Bullfighting No 6: Young novillaros getting ready for a bullfight in Navaluenga, in central Spain

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 SDL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Balkan dilemma

Sir: When will the West learn that the only approach to take towards a military conflict is a direct one? The "campaign" in the Balkans is running on, and shows signs that it will continue to do so, with no decisive result in sight.

From time to time we see reports of air attacks against targets in Iraq, some nine years down the line. The tentative approach to conducting a relatively low risk campaign over an extended period of time ends up causing more damage, more hardship and more casualties than a short, decisive engagement drawn up under tight military control and conducted with precise political objectives.

Dragging situations out with no decisive conclusion not only harms the civilian populations in the region, it also leads to heightened tension between world powers, ongoing cost and the risk of maintaining an active military presence a long way from the territory that they exist to protect. If this is not realised, there will be precious few Six Day Wars for us in the future, to the detriment of all. JOHN SPENCER Uxbridge, Middlesex

Sir: I have campaigned against Milosevic's actions for at least as long as Ken Livingstone ("Why we are not wrong to compare Milosevik to Hitler", 21 April), in Belgrade as well as London, but I am gravely worried that far from the total failure of Nato's actions is the further escalation of bombing.

The only choice for the future being presented is not just more of the same but invasion. The Kosovan Albanians have suffered for more than a decade without significant protests from Western nations. They are now part of a catastrophe to which Nato has contributed. Macedonia and Montenegro cannot escape the creeping spread of this mad war for more than a few days. And then what?

The Russian extremists are waiting in the wings and there is serious, if rusty, nuclear firepower lying around. TONY SMYTRE London N4

Teenage misfits

Sir: The goth movement is not "obsessed with satanism and medieval torture" ("The misfits who killed for kicks". 22 April: That is a wildly inaccurate description of a complicated (and popular) American subculture.

The goth "movement" which is a misnomer - is a style of music (often moody, melodic, slow electronic music with an abundance of minor chords not Marilyn Manson, but bands like Bauhaus), a style of dress (wearing a lot of black, copying Victorian styles and 19thcentury arcana) and a social group. It is not an exclusively American movement.

Satanism and the goth movement are not synonymous, Many "goths" are teenagers, to whom satanism has a certain rebellious appeal, but are not

in any way dangerous people. If you're going to link these boys with a subculture, the militia movement is far more accurate, with its obsession with war games and guns, than the goth movement. Most "goths" I have known spend their time writing abysmal poetry and traipsing through graveyards, trying to look poetic and pale.

They are mostly social misfits who can find acceptance in a subculture with very different social norms from the rest of American teenage society. What better way to rebel against the sunny disposition of the jock/cheerleader stereotype than by cultivating a calculated depression? ALICE MARWICK Seattle, Washington, USA

Sir: In your report, "Rifle association told to stay away from city" (23 April), you state that "Mr Heston sounded an altogether less conciliatory note, arguing that a teacher with a concealed weapon might have been able to curtail the violence".

Surely, teachers with concealed weapons holding a shoot-out with armed students in trenchcoats is a recipe for a far bloodier disaster than what occurred in Colorado. JEFFREY BAUMGARTNER Brussels

St George legend

Sir: Another St George's Day. another article questioning our allegiance to "a gentleman from Asia Minor and informing us that nobody cares anyway ("Cry: God for Harry! England and Saint Who?", 23 April).

The article fails to address the central question over why the legend of St George has provided a source of inspiration for English people over the centuries. The reason is because of what the legend represents – the triumph of good over evil. The origin and nature of the man himself is of little significance. While it may be true that

the majority of English people do not overtly mark the day, I believe that this is indicative less of a lack of desire to rejoice in our achievements as a nation but more to do with feeling uncomfortable with the concept of celebrating an English national day. This is engendered in no

small part by a government that cares little for England as an entity, television controllers that devote no air time whatsoever to signifying St George's Day and iournalists who seek to dampen down any enthusiasm that may spontaneously erupt. A SAWYER

Sir: Anne McElvoy makes the extremely common error of stating that St Augustine converted the British to a new faith. He didn't. He converted

the pagan English in Kent. The British (subsequently known as "Welsh", an Old High German word meaning "foreign") had been Christian for centuries. There were British bishops at the Council of Arles, AD314, nearly 300 years before Augustine.

It is known that traders from the Mediterranean were visiting Britain even before the Romans (also pagans) arrived, and so it is almost certain that there were Christians in Britain from the very earliest days, as the legend of St Joseph of Arimathea at Glastonbury would seem to indicate. BENEDICT BAKER

King of the road

Brecon, Powys

Sir: Geoffrey Thomoson speaks of the "enormous" savings that can be made by giving up a car in London and taking taxi rides out of town, while William Kail (letters, 21 April) claims that car ownership for the urban use: "costs a fortune".

One wonders how obliging SE13's taxi drivers are, and what cars Mr Kail has in mind. Between 1994 and 1998 I lived mostly in London. I went to work on the Tube, but needed a car for social and other purposes at the weekend. In 1994 I bought a second-hand 1980s saloon for £535.

During the following four and-a-half years it covered 45,000 miles at 35mpg. It cost £120pa for insurance, £350pa, on average, for repairs and servicing (with minor work being done at home), £150pa in tax, £70pa in breakdown insurance and £75 to have it scrapped when it wore out. It broke down only four times.

It went all over the country, on all kinds of roads, at all times of day and night, often at short notice. Taking taxis to all the places that car went would not have saved a fortune. Carlessness is probably

acceptable for a bachelor leading a quiet, settled life with few out-of-London social contacts, or with a life that can be planned, in detail, a long time in advance. But it is not practicable for most of us, even if the car rests unused during the week. HEON STEVENSON

Church's shares

Sir: Your diary piece "Church drops BAe shares" (Business Review, 21 April) is

misleading. The Church of England has never held shares in British Aerospace. The Church's long-

standing ethical investment policy is not to invest in companies whose main business is in the production of armaments. The Church of England's

Ethical Investment Working Group has reviewed the Church's holding in GEC in the light of the proposed sale of Marconi Defence Systems, the defence arm of GEC, to BAe.

It has recommended that the church does not retain shares acquired in the "new" British Aerospace, should the sale go ahead.

GEC without Marconi Defence Systems would retain no detence involvement whatsoever and would be retained, like other holdings, subject to Church investors' investment and ethical criteria ARUN KATARIA Communications Officer The Church of England Church Commissioners

London SW1

Child sex crimes

Sir: Philip Sweeney's sympathetic treatment of convicted paedophiles in the Philippines (The Independent Magazine, 17 April) missed out the most important thing of all - the compelling evidence from the child victims themselves.

Had Philip taken the time to visit the Preda Children's Home when he was investigating the Olongapo paedophile sex bars, he could have talked to some of the 46 child victims in therapeutic recovery, ages ranging from six to 16.

Labelling the 20 Preda staffers who care for these child victims as part of a "coalition of paedophile vigilantes", is trite and unjust. Stating that we moved to have judges dismissed for failing to convict is untrue.

Michael Clarke was found guilty of violating Republic Act 7610. This law makes it a crime to offer minors for prostitution. The court found the ITN video of Clarke allegedly making such offers

compelling evidence, as well as a poster he had made advertising sex orgies and more besides

The allegation that I "condemn opponents by association and exaggeration", and the insinuation that we cut corners and bend the rules, in helping the children to bring their cases to court is baseless

Philip Sweeney also failed to note that we vigorously campaign against the death penalty, which causes more heinous crimes against children and prevents nothing.

Had he spent more time with the official record and less in the kiddie sex clubs he would have enlightened and informed your readers and done fustice to the childre who are the forgotten victims in his story. Fr SHAY CULLEN Preda Foundation Olongapo City Philippines

IN BRIEF

Sir: Gay rights campaigners responded to the Lords vote gainst lowering the homosexual age of consent last Tuesday by claiming that the Lords were out of touch. Out of touch with whom? The Lords have consistently voted against lowering the age of consent to 16. This accurately reflects the wishes of the electorate who are themselves two-thirds against this measure. It is the House of Commons and the Government that are out of touch with people of this nation. MICHAEL BELL Horsham, Sussex

Sir: In recent years, BBC presenters have shown an increasing inability to enunciate the word "sixth" pronouncing it as "sick". This affectation was originally confined to newsreaders and reporters, but has now spread across the corporation. Most recently, members of the public are beginning to fall prey to the affliction. Can anyone offer an explanation? PHIL SMITH Rugby, Warwickshire

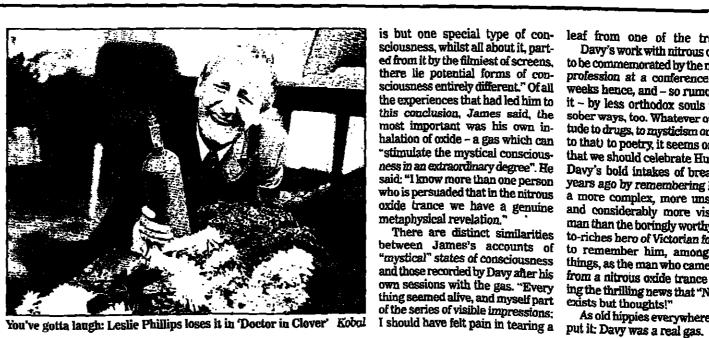
What a gas!

Continued from page 1 medicine" went rapidly out of fashion and the inhalation of nitrous oxide became associated with mesmerism, animal magnetism and

other sordid phenomena. But the visionary gas could not be so easily confined. Blown out by the doctors, it drifted across the Atlantic and went into showbiz, being taken up by creative entrepreneurs, including the celebrated circus man PT Barnum. Crowds flocked to see Barnum's "Laughing Gas" exhibitions much as they now go to see a Paul McKenna stage hypnotism show. "The effect of the gas," as one poster advised punters in 1844, "is to make those who inhale it either story is well enough documented. LAUGH, SING, DANCE, SPEAK or FIGHT..." (The same poster stressed that "The Gas will be given only to gentlemen of the first respectability. The object is to make the entertainment in every respect a poets to have used nitrous oxide as genteel affair." Of course, of course.)

One of the punters who attended this very show was Horace Wells, a local dentist who had already been experimenting with techniques of anaesthesia. He acquired some N2O, inhaled it, and - as his wife put it -"made a spectacle of himself". Undaunted, he persevered, and asked a colleague to knock him out with a strong dose of the substance and then remove one of his teeth. Eureka: nitrous oxide was firmly launched on its errand of mercy to humankind's rotten teeth.

The rest of that side of the N2O The story of its adventures in the realm of ideas and sensations is patchier, and stands in need of further research. Coleridge and Southey were certainly not the last a gateway into other modes of perception - Allen Ginsberg, for one, wrote a lengthy ode about his hours under laughing gas. But when the full history of N₂O comes to be written, one name is bound to dominate the field: that of William James, the great American psychologist, writer and philosopher. In Varieties of Religious Experience, James wrote: "Our normal walking consciousness, rational consciousness as we call it.



is but one special type of con-sciousness, whilst all about it, parted from it by the filmiest of screens, there lie potential forms of consciousness entirely different." Of all the experiences that had led him to this conclusion, James said, the most important was his own inhalation of oxide - a gas which can stimulate the mystical consciousness in an extraordinary degree". He said: "I know more than one person who is persuaded that in the nitrous oxide trance we have a genuine metaphysical revelation."

There are distinct similarities between James's accounts of "mystical" states of consciousness and those recorded by Davy after his own sessions with the gas. "Every thing seemed alive, and myself part of the series of visible impressions;

leaf from one of the trees..." Davy's work with nitrous oxide is to be commemorated by the medical profession at a conference a few weeks hence, and - so rumour has it - by less orthodox souls in less sober ways, too. Whatever our attitude to drugs, to mysticism or (come to that) to poetry, it seems only fair that we should celebrate Humphry Davy's bold intakes of breath 200 years ago by remembering him as a more complex, more unsettling and considerably more visionary man than the boringly worthy, ragsto-riches hero of Victorian folklore; to remember him, among other things, as the man who came round from a nitrous oxide trance shouting the thrilling news that "Nothing exists but thoughts!"

As old hippies everywhere might

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*THE INDEPENDENT

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Curiosity may have killed the cat but it did wonders for us

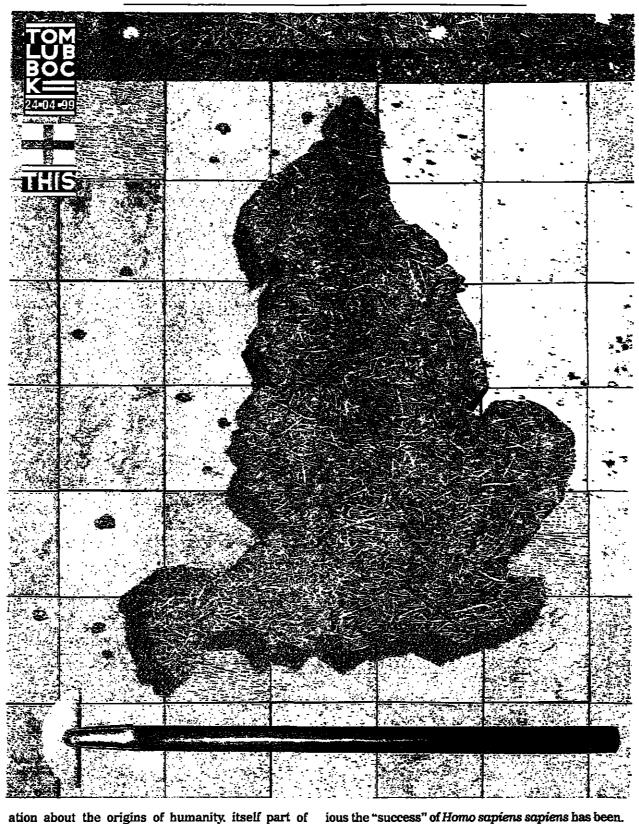
IT MAKES you think, doesn't it? Ever since early human beings gazed at the stars from the mouth of a cave and wondered, "Why are we here?", that curiosity about our place in space and time has driven science forward, even when it was called religion. Not that caves had much to do with it. One by one, all the popular assumptions about human origins have been exploded by the steady accumulation of evidence and the testing and remaking of hypotheses. Our ancestors did not live in caves, the Neanderthals turned out to be an evolutionary cul-de-sac, and the whole notion of steady progression, from left to right on the page, from knuckie-dragging savage to noble athlete, has been lost in a picture of ever-growing tangled complexity.

This week's report of the discovery of another "missing link", an ape-like animal that lived in Ethiopia 2.5 million years ago, adds to the realisation that human evolution was a remarkably fitful, accidental and above all, recent development. The more we know, the less simple it seems. Far from its being a single line of descent, with a few evolutionary dead-ends branching off it, it seems that for hundreds of thousands of years an astonishing number of different species and subspecies of ape-like and then human-like animals adapted, migrated and died out. Although it is clear that modern humans came out of Africa, this was not, it seems, a single process of migration, but an endless series of waves of related species overlapping and competing with each other. Supremacy was established all over the globe by the current model in a blink of Time's eye, the past 100,000 years.

And, far from a steady progression from eating berries in trees to building pyramids, it turns out that these species evolved in a series of relatively sudden steps. Walking on two legs was one, the tripling of brain size was another, the development of language a third. In many ways, the big increase in the size of hominid brains is the most puzzling of these changes. Recently, a number of theories based on new evidence have been put forward to try to explain it. The find in Ethiopia suggests that the use of tools to cut meat could have been the key breakthrough, allowing mostly vegetarian apes to enjoy a high-fat diet of meat and bone-marrow.

Earlier this month, however, a contradictory theory s floated, which is that it was the invention of cooking which boosted the calorie intake of human ancestors by allowing them to eat root vegetables. So there you have it. The success of the human species was made possible by a bunch of renegade vegetarian carnivores hell-bent on exploiting technology to kill and carve. Or by a domesticated tribe of Delia Smiths, keeping their drone-like menfolk in check by stuffing them full of carbohydrates in between their occasional, rather desultory, hunter-gathering missions. This has kept the readers of the less serious press entertained with pictures of the young Raquel Welch in a pelt and much speculation about the sexual attractiveness of Neanderthal women.

But an important point is that the theory of evolution is now entirely accepted. The relevance of new discoveries is not that they help to win an argument against the creationists - that was won long ago. Instead they contribute to a widening popular convers-



ation about the origins of humanity, itself part of increasing the public understanding of science, which is one of the causes to which this newspaper has been committed since its advent.

The twin obsessions of popular science - the search for "the missing link" of human evolution and the hunt for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe - are essentially two aspects of the same phenomenon. The defining characteristic of the modern rational sensibility is the realisation of the insignificance of humanity in both space and time. In space, we may not be alone, but we might as well be, despite this month's report of another star with a "solar system" of planets like ours. And humans occupy an insignificant amount of time; recent advances in the understanding of human evolution emphasise just how short-lived and precar-

Where does that get us? This kind of pure curiosity is never going to give us better non-stick frying-pans, the by-product of applied curiosity in the form of the Apollo space programme. But the more we understand how it was curiosity itself which selected humans for their unique ability to overrun the world, the better equipped we may be to deal with the unstable and dangerous consequences of our "success". The ease with which so many species died out underlines our fragile hold on the world. It is our capacity for thought, language, for making moral choices, for adapting to changing environments, that has made us what we are today. Finding out more about the missing links of evolution will not make people happier or richer, or bring about world peace. But it makes you think.

Nato should stick to military targets

THE STORMING of the Bastille, 210 years on. That is the name given by disrespectful Belgraders to the headquarters building of Serbian television, which Nato bombed early yesterday morning. Slobodan Milosevic's broadcasting outfit is undoubtedly a loathsome instrument of racist Serb propaganda, but this choice of target leaves a bad taste in the mouth. It seems to have been part of a sequence of questionable targets in recent days: first the headquarters of Milosevic's socialist party, then the dictator's house, defined by Nato as a "command and control centre", presumably on the basis that it had a telephone.

All these attacks are clearly aimed at the leadership of the regime which is responsible for "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. But the idea that they will destroy the morale of Milosevic and his commanders is unconvincing. To argue that these targets are all symbols of the Milosevic regime cuts both ways. The symbolism ensures that Serb nationalists will be strengthened in their conviction that Nato is at war with their nation, and their resolve hardened by a sense of aggrieved adversity. Doubting members of the Nato alliance, such as Greece and Italy, will be alarmed by the bombing of targets which are explicitly not military. The idea that chemicals plants, transport facilities and even food supplies might potentially support the Serb killing machine has been accepted, however reluctantly. Bombing a television station is different. Milosevic's propaganda, aimed at his armed forces and the Serb population generally, will find a way, with or without the seven o'clock news.

The attack seems to have been peculiarly ill directed. It has not taken Serb television off the air, but it has killed civilian staff such as cleaners and make-up assistants - partly because they assumed that Nato bombers might hit the transmitters, but not the office. Which only raises the question: why didn't they?

It has to be emphasised once again that a war fought by democratic nations for a just cause must be fought by limited, morally justifiable means. Simply labelling Serb television "the ministry of lies" is not enough. That means Nato is bombing people because we do not like what they say. What they say is indeed odious, proclaiming the racial superiority of Slavs and justifying the expulsion of Muslims from "Serb" soil, but bombing is not refutation. Nato spokesmen should pause, too, to reflect that they hardly served the cause of truth in their accounts of the bombing of the refugee convoys.

The Prime Minister's speech in Chicago on Thursday night was an admirable attempt to set out a new doctrine of international statesmanship, something which could genuinely be called an ethical foreign policy. The "Blair doctrine" justifies intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states in cases of crimes against humanity, provided certain basic conditions are met. This cause could be a great step forward in the post-Cold War world. But it must be taken with care.

It is not wrong to try to undermine the confidence of Milosevic's power élite, but fighting a limited war from the air requires a greater degree of certainty about the outcome. If we could not be sure that the broadcasts would be knocked out, it would have been better to have kept to strictly military targets. This week's choice of targets contains another unfortunate implication, which is that Nato cannot find enough purely military objectives that it can hit with certainty. The case for deploying ground forces grows stronger and stronger.

Evil only survives because we walk away from its horror

I WANT to tell you a story about fear physical archetype of the country's and conscience. It is a story from five years ago, but a story that travels, a story with parallels. Five years ago, in a time of chaos, I travelled to a town in the centre of Africa. It was a town high in the mountains, surrounded by forests of conifers and with a long and wide main street originally designed with horse-drawn carriages or ox wagons in mind. By the standards of Central Africa it was also a town of unusual sophistication. There was a university here and several seminaries Lane training of nuns and priests. On the main street there were two good hotels and, at the top of this street, an

acre or so of fine colonial houses set amid a rich landscape of bougainvillaea and palm trees. For decades this town had been the main seat of learning and culture in the country. Students travelled there from across the region, so well respected were the lecturers and professors.

But when I arrived it was a place that had ceased to exist as part of the civilised world. The physical infrastructure was intact, but the men who controlled the place seemed to me to have come from a darker, fevered zone of the imagination. There were roadblocks - more than 30 on the short journey from the border to the centre of town. At these roadblocks were men with machetes and grenades. Some of them were drunk, others dangled the our car and laughed. All of them had been participants in mass murder. They were men and boys who had passed beyond the bounds of humanity and they were looking for people to kill; to be precise, they were looking for people who were black and tall and thin, people who conformed to the and seize some of them. They plainly

ethnic minority.

I am telling you this story because it has profoundly shaped my view of world events. The experience of those few days in that African town still make me feel a sense of weakness and of shame, however much I try to rationalise what I feel was my own failure. By the time I arrived in the town, most of the ethnic minority population had been exterminated. This had been achieved through the joint efforts of a political élite that directed the killing and the soldiers and peasants who did the hands-on work of murder. People were killed in any number of ways: among the more imaginative means employed by the army was to dig trenches, fill them with gasoline and set them alight. They then forced men, women and children to jump into

the trenches. I knew that there were still members of the minority hiding in forests and private homes. The soldiers and the militia were stepping up their attempts to find them. And I was also made aware that a sizeable group of refugees, members of the minority, were camping out in front of the offices of the local administration. They had been driven from their villages. Some had lost family members. Most had survived attacks on the roads leading into town. They were very lucky to be alive. It appeared that some of those involved in the genocide feared the prospect of justice and had decided to try to preserve the lives of these people, perhaps so that they could later claim that they had acted heroically. But the people were quite plainly terrified. I had been told that, at night, the army and the militia would come



FERGAL KEANE Confronted with genocide,

fear made me decide that the safest - not the best thing to do was nothing

understood that they were living on borrowed time.

I asked the local prefet - the chief administrator - what would happen to them. He assured me that they would be safe. For the record, this prefet is now facing charges of genocide at the International War Crimes Trial in Arusha, Tanzania. I went back at night to try to speak with the people. But the army came up and told me and my colleagues to go away. It was on the colonel's orders, they said. Nobody was to be allowed near the refugees. And being afraid, very afraid, I did not insist on my right to stay there; I did not insist that I should be allowed to speak to the people and confirm for myself that they were indeed safe. Fear made me step back. Fear made me turn round and negotiate my way home through the roadblocks. Fear made me decide that the safest - not the best - thing to do was nothing.

You must understand that this

capsizing of a world. And in this town of scholars and churches the moral order had been subverted: the "good" man was one who killed his neighbour, the "bad" man was one who shied away from murder. But I come back to the question of fear. I have since told myself that nothing I or my colleagues could have done would have made a difference. The army would have physically prevented us from ap-proaching the frightened refugees, had we tried to push forward. They and the militia had their plans for those people and we would have been unable to alter that. And all of that is true in so far as it goes. But my own actions were motivated not by those rational considerations, but quite simply by fear: I was physically powerless and afraid for my own life. Confronted with evil, I had to admit an inability to be heroic.

I don't doubt that the soldiers understood this too. They were seasoned killers and they had the power. In such times the gun maketh the man. I am not a warmonger; the corpses, the shattered limbs, the orphans, the smell and the blood of war long ago proved to me the waste and horror of it all.

But that encounter in Central Africa helped to convince me that there are times when evil demands that we employ force to ensure that it is defeated. This is a notion that our liberal society finds difficult to countenance; it seems to challenge the very idea we have of ourselves at the end of this century.

War makes us shiver, we lie awake

it will lead us. And we are right to ques- as not walking away. tion and right to worry. But when you many dead bodies, after seeing the anxieties, you are faced with a very correspondent

simple question. When confronted with evil, do you take a view that you should not act to prevent it continuing? You may take this view for any number of reasons: ■ You believe there is no national interest to be served by intervention (honest but blinkered) You wonder why we act in one place

when we did not act in, say, Rwanda or East Timor (a fair question, but it evades the point ■ You believe that everybody involved is savage and one side is bad as the other (frequently expressed, but

You believe that the long-term consequences may be catastrophic fintelligent and sober, but this again misses the point) There are all these reasons, and I

racist, and it ignores history)

do not mock anybody who espouses them. But I come back to the question that faces all of us: when confronted with evil on a vast scale, do you sit back and do nothing when you have the power and scope to do something? Of course, we cannot intervene

everywhere, all the time. But we can intervene where it is possible, and where the scale of the crime insists that we act. That is why, for example. we have a UN convention on genocide: the legal injunction that forces us to recognise the singularity of some international crimes above all others.

Evil survives - whether in East Timor or Rwanda or the Balkans because those with the power to act fail in their moral duty. There are those who will tell you that it is not as simple wondering where it will all end, where as that. But it really is. It is as simple

encounter had come after seeing have had all the arguments and the The writer is a BBC News special

Lucky Bloke?

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Columbine High School Massacre • Ground war in Kosovo • Liz Tilberis • Manchester United • Brixton bomb

GROUND WAR IN KOSOVO

The British press contemplates the possibility of Nato sending troops on the ground into Kosovo

DAILY MAIL

NATO'S LEADERS seem to be edg- GRADUALLY THE government is ing towards the conclusion that a ground attack is necessary. But if not have to fight its way in. But it they are going to take this giant step. they will have to start preparing for it now. The West took the decision to open hostilities. Now it must show the resolution to finish the job. But winning the war will not be the end of the problem for the West. The Alliance would take over a Kosovo that is utterly devastated. Rebuilding will require a vast Western aid effort. Meanwhile British and Nato troops may be stuck in the province for a generation. There will be no glory in victory. Just a smoking battlefield and the prospect of long. thankless years spent in maintaining a bitter and uneasy peace. It is

THE MIRROR

all a terrible mess.

IF BLAIR now decides to send in ground troops, we will again back him to the hilt. We do not say this because we are warmongers. Nothing would please us more than to see an end to further bloodshed. We say it because we can see no other way of halting the genocidal scorched-earth policy of Milosevic. The West is determined to end his reign of terror. When he sees the armies of democracy massed on the borders of Kosovo he'd better believe that they are not there for show. They will crush him. And The Mirror will be supporting them all the way.

NEW STATESMAN

FIVE PRACTICAL questions must be raised. First, can the bombing work? Second, can we put in ground forces? Third, can we risk our own blood? Fourth, can Nato hold together? Fifth, can we afford it? Only if the answers to all these questions are clearly "yes" should Nato press the war to a conclusion. If the answer to any one of them is "no", it should pursue a peace deal, based on the partition of Kosovo, at the earwise would be irresponsible and, sacrificed to no end, inhumane.

THE ECONOMIST

abandoning its belief that Nato will does not favour a full invasion. Is there a third way? In the House of Commons this week Robin Cook, conceded that he could imagine circumstances in which Milosevic had not yet admitted defeat but in which his forces were in retreat and unable to put up much of a fight. You can see at once the special appeal to Blair of such an eventuality. If only an unopposed invasion by relatively light forces could do the business. Then Britain could be seen to pull its weight, despite having relatively little military weight to pull.

THE TIMES

AT PRESENT, British and American opinion, shocked by the plight of the refugees, dismayed by the political ineffectiveness of the bombing, seems to be moving in favour of invasion. This movement of opinion is not shared on the Continent. I doubt if it could be relied on even here or in the US if the troops did actually go in. The British have been horrified by the television pictures of human suffering, but television is a short-term, high-impact medium in which new images constantly obliterate the old ones. At present the emotional case for a Balkan war seems very powerful, but, as Robert Walpole said of war with Spain in 1739: "They now ring the bells, but they will soon wring their hands."

EVENING STANDARD

IF NATO begins a big ground buildup now, the generals will tell the Nato leaders, there is a good chance of being able to launch a decisive incursion. A Nato military man has said: "The only way the Serbs can win is if the Alliance falls apart." But, to put the matter the other way around: the only way the Alliance can be sure of winning within a polliest possible moment. To do other- itically acceptable timeframe is to put in ground troops whether or not since more Balkan lives would be Milosevic has signed their passports (Max Hastings)

Armed and trigger-happy kids

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

IT IS no longer enough to simply wag our fingers at the raft of usual suspects. This time, we can't allow ourselves to simply scowl at the National Rifle Association. Or at disintegrating families and bleak, cynical television that trivializes life. We can't simply rage at bloody video games. Not this time. This Black Death is spreading too far. too fast. This time we cannot just cluck our tongues and, when the wailing is done. simply walk away.

THE WASHINGTON POST

THE NATIONAL arsenal of America is notorious worldwide. Outcasts seeking attention get it when they are armed. It emboldens kids in rural as well as urban settings and from all social groups. Law enforcement authorities - those on the front lines - continue to urge more attention to public safety, as do voters in more and more states. How many more tragedies like this one in Colorado must it take for the country to stop feeding firepower so freely to its youth?

FREE LANCE STAR Virginia

WHAT HAPPENED comes easier in a culture where much of the "entertainment" is blood-drenched and where gunsmoke is depicted as redemptive. When we endlessly "consume" this drek, something else is being consumed in the process. "I looked into his eyes," a survivor said of one of the killers. "There was nothing there."

THE CORNING LEADER New York

LITTLETON IS no different than a thousand other communities struggling with the impersonal texture of modern suburban life. It has hurried boulevards clogged with commuters, clone-home neighborhoods filled with professional-level migrant families, parents holding down multiple jobs, overworked police trying to keep a lid on vandalism and vagrancy and giant schools where hurting kids scream for help with silent voices. We believe the time for talk



American comment on the shooting dead of of thirteen people in a Colorado school by two teenage pupils, members of the self-styled 'Trenchcoat Mafia'

and excuses has passed. We should pledge to give our children what they need - love and personal attention. We must not give in to the evil of humanity's violent history, but must overcome evil with good.

INTELLIGENCER-RECORD Philadelphia

SOCIETY ITSELF is to blame for much of what's been happening on our streets and in our schools. Life has been cheapened; values have been compromised; doing the right thing has been replaced by doing anything. Can we be genuinely surprised when young people see solutions in violence? After all, they have a lot of source material (adults) from which to draw.

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER TIMES

WHATEVER DEVILS plague a tortured

MANCHESTER UNITED

The Italian press considers the defeat of their

team Juventus at the hands of Man Utd

psyche, access to a gun magnifies them. Every bloody rampage by the disaffected and the deranged is an argument that this nation pays a terrible price for its reluctance to restrict firearms. We must also try to understand the anger and disaffection that is growing along the fringes of the teenage crowds. We may not understand what causes such dark fantasies to grow or what nurtures them. But we can stop them before they explode as they did on Tuesday.

DENVER POST Colorado

In stunned disbelief, we have watched the tragedy at Columbine High School unfold. We have prayed for the students and faculty. We have prayed for the families who waited in numbed torment to learn the fate of those they loved. We have prayed for the police who risked their own lives. And we have no answers. The reasons behind this act of mindless, senseless violence elude us now and, perhaps,

will elude us forever. Nor will any answer ever be acceptable.

THE

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WASHINGTON TIMES

HOW DO we prevent another school shooting from happening? We try by making sure that this nation's children grow up with the awareness that we are created in the image of God and that therefore the loss of even one individual is a tragedy - let alone the loss of 15 youngsters who should have had all their bright lives before them.

HURON DAILY TRIBUNE Michigan

EVERY SCHOOL has its outcasts. Every child exposed to TV has seen hundreds of portrayals of killings. Are we fated to have more senseless mass murders? We must find a way to defuse the anger and end their hopelessness.

LIZ TILBERIS

Tributes to Liz Tilberis, former editor of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, who died from ovarian cancer this week

EVENING STANDARD

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HER GREATEST achievement was in her prolonged battle against ovarian cancer. When the disease struck, she proceeded to speak publicly about it, to raise funds for cancer charities and to write coherently about her condition. In this, as in her whole career, Liz Tilberis helped and comforted untold thousands of women. (Mimi Spencer)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ELIZABETH TILBERIS transformed Harper's Bazaar from a tired magazine into a viable voice in fashion while she battled ovarian cancer and raised awareness of the disease. She was highly respected for her ability as an editor, her warmth and her good humor in the face of debilitating treatments



1993 and again in the summer of 1995 she oversaw each issue of the magazine, which she had edited since 1992.

THE TIMES

ALTHOUGH LIZ Tilberis had many of the characteristics of women who reach the top in fashion journalism, such as a ruthless determination and the ability to undermine the efforts of rivals by word, thought to halt the spread of the cancer and deed, she was not really a down to the doggedness of her that ultimately took her life. fashion person. She was far too Irish genes. (Brenda Polan) Keane revealed that. We will THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

engulfed her too early.

DAILY MAIL

pleasant for that. A born mayerick, she was always strong, wilful and disinclined to allow others to write rules for her, and nobody was surprised that she kept her fighting spirit to the end. She fought death with humour and panache. As she said in her book "I can't afford to have bad hair days. I've seen the dark side of the moon." It

NO ONE ever fought harder for life than Elizabeth Tilberis, the ordinary girl from the Midlands who by dint of talent, humour and guts, conquered New York as editor of Harper's Bazaar. She could call the Princess of Wales her close friend and even seemed to have defied ovarian cancer. But then, beneath her feminine demeanour and that wicked sense of humour, she did have a core of well-polished steel. She put it

United has knocked Juventus out of the European Cup semifinals. Arrogant though Alex Ferguson may be, his team are both magnificent and divine in equal measure. After the suffering of their 1-1 draw in the first leg, they managed to put on a majestic performance in Turin. And they deserved to win, thanks to the superb skill of Cole, who produced a truly wonderful display of football.

TUTTOSPORT

AN OUTSTANDING Manchester

LA GAZETTA

DELLO SPORT DESPITE ALL its talk about dictating the play. Juventus let Manchester United take the initiative, and was punished in the most atrocious manner. Juventus put on a mask for the Old Trafford encounter, vaunting confidence, but underneath they had a face transfigured by

team that knew how to dare away, and in front of their worst enemies, even though they started from a terrible psychological situation.

debate for years what led to this

tactical suicide from the most

experienced team that exists.

but let's join in the applause of

the stadium for the Manches-

ter players. In the bitterness of

a magic night, we are left with

the image of a magnificent

CORRIERE DELLO SPORT AFTER JUVENTUS'S initial

burst of flame, which should have reduced the English to ashes, they instead decided to sit back, hoping, or at least thinking, that they could live off that incredible lead. It was a fatal mistake, because Manchester took the match in hand, backed Juventus into a corner and showed what they know how to do best - and that's play fast, well-organised, courageous and powerful football.

BRIXTON BOMB

Reaction to the nail bomb which exploded in a busy market street at the weekend

SOUTH LONDON PRESS

IT IS almost impossible to comprehend the mentality of that person who made and primed that bomb, and then left it in the middle of Brixton knowing that it would main dozens of people, black and white. I was also incensed by the way certain "community leaders" immediately denounced it as a "race hate" backlash. It may well have been, but in the aftermath of Saturday's blast, no one knew for sure and to bandy that sort of rhetoric about was inflammatory and insensitive. (Jim Blunt)

THE TIMES

BRIXTON IS a resilient place, however. It has had to be. With more than its fair share of troubles in the past 30 years, it has learnt to turn adversity to its advantage. Lacking wealth, jobs and beauty, Brixton has seen race riots and race hatred,

national inquiries and government resolutions. But since 1981, the district has fought back. Urban regeneration, imaginative integration, the kindling of ethnic pride amid racial diversity have made Brixton now a symbol more of hope than deprivation. No wonder Nelson Mandela asked to go there. Its streets hum with life; no deranged terrorist can destroy their vibrant variety.

police brutality and police

victimisation, segregation and

prejudice. There have been

THE EXPRESS

SOME OF those hurt will never recover from their injuries and none will forget the moment that changed their lives. For the rest of Britain, this despicable act of violence has raised, yet again, the spectre of terrorism. Saturday's bomb had nothing to do with Northern Ireland but has reminded us all of one simple truth - that there is nothing more important than peace.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

FAROE ISLAND REVIEW

YOUNG FAROESE women should restrain from eating whale-meat and blubber if they plan to have children, a team of Faroese researchers recommended recently. The amounts of PCB contained in whalemeat and, particularly, blubber has prompted the warning because women will pass the PCB on to their children during pregnancy. It is recommended not to eat whale-meat more than once or twice a month.

AL GOMHURIYA Egypt

POLICE HAD their hands full trying to manage the chaos

caused by the introduction of hundreds of thousands of sheep into Egyptian households over the Eid. There was at least one ovine-related fatality - Ragab Mohammed Alam fell to his death pursuing a ram across a fourth-storey balcony on Saad Zaghloul street, in Giza (the sheep escaped but is presumed devoured).

In the Minya village of Al Ashraf Bafoa, a sheep belonging to one family burst into another family's home, triggering a knife fight that left four injured. And in south Cairo, a butcher and his two unemployed side kicks were arrested for sheep-rustling - apparently. they managed to steal 12 unattended animals and E£100,000 worth of meat and sell it before they were caught.

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

OUOTES OF THE WEEK



"Success is the only exit strategy I am prepared to consider." Tony Blair (above) on the Kosovo war

"That would be difficult." Sir Edward Heath to Baroness Thatcher when she told him at a photocall: "You should be on my

There are three things in this world you can do nothing about: getting Aids, getting clamped and running out of Cháteau Lafite '45." Alan Clark, Tory MP

We spend a lot of time praying for William Hague, and we sometimes pray for Tony Blair. We have to because he's the Prime Minister." Tim Montgomerie, Conservative Christian Fellowship

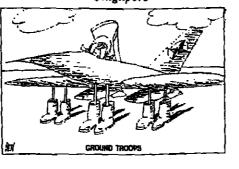
"Giamour is on a lifesupport machine and not expected to live." Joan Čollins, actress

"Six of us collapsed on top of each other, with a rhinoceros at the bottom. To cap it ali, I was overtaken by a Womble." Peregrine Armstrong-Jones, half-brother of Lord Snowdon, on his marathon

BALTIMORE SUN



THE STRAITS TIMES Singapore



SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG Germany

Vive la France is not a trade fair, it's a way of life

IS FRANCE still top nation? A survey in a New York newspaper the most varied and the most M Bernard, the Ambassador, and a couple of years ago asked its readers to nominate the most civilised nation in terms of richness of culture, quality of life, history, geography and general overall ambience. France won, followed not very closely by Britain, with Italy coming in third. Civilisation, in this instance at least, was limited

to Europe. What fired most of those Americans to vote for France was its wine, its cuisine, its cathedrals and, above all, Paris, symbol of all things chic, stylish and desirable. Speaking for myself, the Is would have had it - Ireland, Italy and India, in no particular order - because all three countries have impressive top-nation qualities. Indian mythology is arguably

delicious to be had; while Ireland has Yeats and Connemara and, above all, the Irish.

If quality of life means where you would get the most value from an hour chatting to the locals over a pint. Ireland would win hands down. The French would come nowhere - they never chat to foreigners, especially Americans.

Musing inconsequentially thus, I sat last Tuesday morning in a chic, stylish and eminently desirable drawing-room, one of many, in the French Ambassador's residence overlooking Kensington Gardens in London, waiting to be told by His Excellence why the French tourist board is hosting a three-day event called daringly, "Vive la France", next January. I would have called

M Bernard, the Ambassador, and all the other speakers after him including Michael Heseltine, who revealed for the first time, he claimed, that he had a French grandmother - quickly disabused me of this entirely erroneous, not to say unglamorous, notion.

"Vive la France" was to be a celebration, a festival, a tribute to the French way of life for the benefit of all those British folk who appreciate what the French are so good at - food, wine, fashion, farmhouse holidays, blockading Channel ports, etc. We were shown a video from which, to the lilting accompaniment of "La Vie en Rose", we learnt that the promotion sorry, celebration - was aimed at high spenders aged between 25 and 54 and that sponsors interested in



SUE ARNOLD

If quality of life means chatting to the locals over a pint, the French would get nowhere

taking stands or staging events should ring the following numbers. "We are bringing the soul of France to the heart of London.'

breaking with emotion.

Afterwards, I made a beeline for serious-looking, elegantly dressed young man who might easily have been curator of the Quai d'Orsay museum (someone said he was there). He turned out, in fact, to run a removals company that ships furniture to the Dordogne for English people who've bought second homes in France. When we ran out of things to say about moving small upright pianos and large Chesterfield sofas, he introduced me to an estate agent, a travel agent and a girl who works for Eurostar, who said no one called them trade fairs any more. Nowadays they are designed to be like sophisticated theme parks, which are there to compete with

conventional tourist attractions.

"Not the Natural History Museum again, please Mum," cry your treasures. "It's so boring. Can't we go to the Scandinavian Fish and Knitwear exhibition at Olympia instead?" So off we go, and return four hours later laden with brochures for mail-order gravadlax and oiled wool and maybe a sample

of rollmops in brine.

Now I come to think of it, I was once invited to a glittering evening at the Icelandic Embassy for just such a purpose. We ate herring served in 50 different ways, served by beautiful ice maidens modelling 50 varieties of Aran jersey. Every-

one smelt like sea lions. "Trade fair", I admit, has an unpleasant commercial ring to it, but calling what is basically a shopping arcade a celebration, is going a bit far. The estate agent said, some-

France was an altogether different experience anyway. He's right there. Buy a perfectly ordinary apple pie in a boulangerie and they'll wrap it up for you like a

wedding present.
It was at a trade fair that my exmother-in-law found one of my more memorable birthday presents. She is an enthusiastic fairgoer and inveterate bargain-hunter On that occasion she combined both. At the Greetings Card, Novelties and Small Gifts exhibition, her eagle eye spotted a paperweight in the shape of the Eiffel Tower, reduced from £5 to £1 because it had only three legs. It was not a celebration of the French way of life, but all the same I liked it. It was different. Vive la difference! "Vive la France"!

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

SONIA GANDHI, INDIAN POLITICIAN

The widow who would be queen

nearly became India's new prime minister. Yesterday her scheme came unstuck, and the Congress, the party of which she is president, conceded that its attempt to glue together enough small parties to form a coalition had failed. But it was a close-run thing. And on the other side of the general election that now appears almost certain, it could well happen.

It was a tantalising moment: when the impossible absurdity that has menaced India for most of the Nineties almost came to pass; when the second largest ration in the world, whose modern history volves around its struggle to shuck off foreign rule, nearly found itself governed once again by a foreigner.

Sonia Gandhi is not, legally speaking, Italian any more. She has Indian citizenship, though her detractors like to point out that she became an Indian only after her husband Rajiv became Prime Minister. when it was politically essential. She has lived in India for 30 years; she wears, in kameez: she speaks Hindi, though opinions differ as to how fluent she is.

For educated Indians, however, all this is mere stage dressing, props to bamboozle the masses. Sonia Gandhi is as Italian as fettucine, Prada or the Vatican. The notion of being ruled by her, for many Indians with some sense of national dignity and integrity, is deeply upsetting.

No one says this in public. Every nation has its proprieties and inhibitions. India's self-image, thanks to Mahatma Gandhi, is liberal through and through, and to voice something as crass as racial discrimination, even against a paleface, is not done. But they think it, and they say it among themselves, and to any foreigner curious enough to ask. In public all is smiling guiescence, the head-wagging Indian esture of cheerful assent. It is left to Bal Thackeray, quasi-Fascist leader of Bombay's Shiv Sena Party, to say on the record what is on everybody's mind. "If we must be ruled by foreigners again," he stormed during last year's general election, "let's invite the British back. At least they had 200 years' experience."

This week, Sonia Gandhi came close to pulling it off. The Congress Party - founded, as her supporters never fail to mention, by an Englishman - has the second largest number of seats in Lok Sabha (India's House of Commons). With the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) coalition felled by a single vote in last Saturday's vote of confidence, Congress stood again on the threshold of power The party was united behind Sonia Gandhi. She has no parliamentary seat, but in the Indian system that was no obstacle. Within the astatutory six months of attaining power, a safe seat would undoubtedly have been

made available for her. Sonia Gandhi, the widow of the one-time Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is Con-

dynastic principle is the only principle that corruption and haunted by failure. At holds her party together. Jawaharial followed (though not immediately) by his daughter Indira. (Her husband, Feroze Gandhi, had no connection to the Mahatma, but the name's resonance was son Sanjay to take over, when he died in a flying accident she turned to his elder brother, Rajiv, a professional pilot and a most reluctant politician.

Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister when his mother was murdered by her bodyguard in 1984. And when Rajiv himself was blown up by an assassin in 1991. the party turned, with a sort of weary automatism, to his widow. Sonia said no. If educated India con-

fronts the likelihood of coming under the

LIFE STORY

Orbassano, a small town outside Turin, daughter of a prosperous building contractor. Stefano Maino Career: au pair at Cambridge from 1965; worked as a picture restorer and housewife during her marriage in Delhi. Following the deaths of her mother-in-law Indira and her husband Rajiv, she became archivist-in-chief of the Gandhi dynastv

Nicknames: Madam, Mona Lisa. the Sphinx, the Enigma - all gathered during the

years 1991-96 when she kept the Congress Party guessing about her

She says: of her first meeting with Rajiv: "As our eyes met. I could feel my heart pounding. We greeted each other, and as far as I was concerned it was love at first sight" Critics say: "Would Italy accept an Indian as prime minister?" Hindu nationalist politician Bal Thackeray

sway of an "Italian housewife" with serious misgivings, these are more than matched by those of the lady herself. After her husband Rajiv's death, the Congress Party, in a display of stunning arrogance and insensitivity, elected her president without taking her opinion on the matter. But she refused to toe the line; she rejected the office. Deprived of Gandhis, and lacking any other effective glue. Congress flailed.

These were the years, the early Nineties, when Congress, which for most of the previous 40 years had ruled India (with brief interludes in opposition) as if by divine gress's unquestioned leader because the

independence, India was seen as the new Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, was Asian nation most likely to succeed. Forty years on it was a wounded giant, its vast potential still unfulfilled, while Japan and China - and even Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia - raced ahead. Congress, India's undoubtedly useful.) Indira groomed her natural party of government, had to take the blame.

Yet more than failure, more than corruption, it was the lack of a dynastic heir that troubled Congress most deeply. So faction-ridden had the party become, that only a Gandhi could hold it together.

Installed in her guarded and heavily reinforced Lutyens bungalow at Number 10 Janpath, New Delhi, tending the Gandhi legacy, editing her mother-in-law's letters and her husband's photographs, Sonia Gandhi received an endless stream of Congress Party grandees imploring her to take command. She smiled and listened and sent them on their way.

Because while Jawaharlal Nehru (the son of an important figure in Congress) and all, to a greater or lesser extent, groomed for power, reared with the smell of power in their nostrils, Sonia Gandhi's case was very different.

She was born Sonia Maino, the daughter of a small-time provincial builder in Orbassano near Turin, in 1946. She passed a provincial Italian childhood of blameless blankness. Then, at age 18, she went to Cambridge - not, as is often flatteringly written, to attend the university there, but to work as an au pair and study English as a foreign language.

Rajiv was studying mechanical engineering at Trinity College when they first met. She had no idea who he was; at the time she had only the vaguest idea about India, "with its snakes, elephants and jungles", she wrote. "Exactly where it was and what it was all about, I was not sure."

Overriding strong objections from her father, she followed Rajiv back to India, married him in a Hindu ceremony and. as Indira's trusted daughter-in-law, began her long apprenticeship in what it means to be a member of the all-powerful Nehru-Gandhi dynasty.

What it has meant for this European woman from a modest and conventional background is a life of terrifying excess: excess of fame and public exposure, excess of power, excess of adulation, excess of peril and suffering. It has meant an excess of all these things, not through deliberate choice and ambition but without choice. through a sort of karmic inevitability.

Her husband Rajiv had no hunger and little aptitude for politics; if his brother Sanjay had not killed himself performing a stupid stunt, he would have continued with the career he loved, as an airline pilot. Instead his brother died and the dreadful dynastic vortex sucked him into politics: and then his mother died and the same vortex sucked Rajiv into the highest office



Sonia Gandhi, after years of refusing to get involved, threw herself into leading Congress

To her credit. Sonia Gandhi has never concealed her feelings about all this. She hated it, and she fought "like a tigress", as she said, to prevent it happening. But the vortex was too strong. When Indira Gandhi was shot by her bodyguard. Sonia was on the scene at once, cradling her mother-inlaw's dving body. A mere seven years later, when Rajiv died, there was nobody to cradle: the Tamil Tiger suicide bomber's device had blown him to pieces.

Throughout the Nineties. Sonia Gandhi has resisted the vortex of Indian politics. She stayed in Delhi, a "sphinx". an "enigma" to the Indian journalists whose request for interviews she invariably turned down. She met everyone who mattered, domestically and internationally; a trip to 10 Janpath was on the itinerary of every visiting nabob. But she kept her own counsel. For Congress, consigned now to opposition, she became the great imponderable, the party's one hopeless hope.

Then, quite suddenly, in 1997 she changed her mind. She joined the party with which she was so closely identified. She made angry speeches, chastising government for the sluggishness of the inquiry into Rajiv's death. In December 1997 a general election was called, and after an agony of suspense Sonia Gandhi threw herself into the campaign.

The effect was electric. Congress immediately came back to life, and the BJP, which had seemed be heading for a famous victory, faltered. Sonia started her campaign at a place called Sriperumbudur, the small town outside Madras where her husband had been murdered. Her delivery, in strongly accented English, was wooden, her response to the cheers of the crowd timid and hesitant. But the speech she gave hit all the right buttons: her husband's martyrdom, her widow's pain, her love and

devotion to India. It was intensely personal, but then the whole significance of her involvement in politics is indeed deeply personal. That is

why she matters. In the great Gandhi tradition, Sonia kept up a ferocious schedule of engagements during the election campaign, crisscrossing the vast country by car and helicopter, addressing millions of people. The result was not the return to power of which Congress had dreamed, but a convincing recovery. The rot had been stopped.

She has not wavered since. Last spring, she was unanimously elected party president. As such, she has quickly proved far more than a figurehead, getting closely involved in the selection of parliamentary candidates and banning destructive parliamentary tactics.

The BJP responded by ignoring her as far as they could. But at the same time the Hindu nationalist right adopted a more oblique and sinister tactic: they persuaded their extremist allies, especially a group called Bajrang Dal, to launch unprovoked attacks on Christians in many different parts of India. In the worst case, in February an Australian missionary and his two small sons were burned to death in their Jeep.

The Hindu nationalist high command will never accept responsibility for these assaults, but few doubt that they are ultimately to blame. The idea, it appears, was to goad Mrs Gandhi into standing up for the Christian victims, thus enabling her enemies to identify her with the weak and marginal Christian community, who constitute only about 5 per cent of India's population.

It was a dirty tactic, to which Sonia Gandhi responded with circumspection and cunning: by undertaking a pilgrimage to Hindu sacred sites. The war on Christians was a warning to Sonia of the crude attacks she must now learn to weather. This past week of high political drama in Delhi has been a second blooding. Now this improbable figure is truly braced for the battle to come.

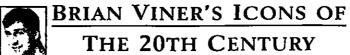
PETER POPHAM

THE MOST potent icons of the cinema are those who made the shrewd if drastic career move of dying young - among them Marilyn Monroe and James Dean and, perhaps above all, Rudolf Valentino. The appearance of Valentino's brother Alberto, who survived into old age, suggests that, had he lived, the Great Lover might have ended his days looking rather like Coronation Street's Albert Tatlock. As it was, Valentino's death in 1926 at the age of 31, from peritonitis brought on by a perforated ulcer, immortalised

him as rakishly handsome. To millions of American women Valentino was also a sexual predator, irresistibly selfish and domineering. But he was not much like his sibly, he then moved to Hollywood, screen alter ego. In reality he was changed his name, and landed some

gentle and weak-willed, possibly bisexual, and certainly dominated by his second wife Natacha Rambova (whose real name was the marginally less exotic Winifred Hudnut). Valentino's real name was Rod-

olfo Guglielmi, and although the myth persists that his family were illiterate Italian peasants, the more prosaic truth is that they were middle class; his father was a veterinary surgeon. Nevertheless, Rodolfo emigrated to America when he was 18, and worked as a night-club dancer in New York. Here he became embroiled in the scandalous De Saulles case, which erupted when a celebrated society beauty shot her estranged husband. Sen-



RUDOLPH VALENTINO, FILM STAR

minor film roles, before his powerful performance in The Four Horsemen of the Apocalupse (1921) turned him into a star to rival the archswashbuckler Douglas Fairbanks.

Valentino's rolling eyes and quivering nostrils, which rolled and quivered even more spectacularly in his second major film, The Sheik (also 1921), look absurd by today's standards of acting. But he took America - and, in particular, Amer-

ican women - by storm. The Sheik, though an inferior film to Four Horsemen, was a box-office sensation, and "Sheik-mania" swept the country, inspiring the hit song, "The Sheik of Araby", and even influencing interior design.

Men, meanwhile, were less enamoured of Valentino. They didn't mind their wives and girifriends falling for the all-American Fairbanks, but Valentino. darn it, was a

foreigner. When powder-dispensing machines started appearing in men's washrooms, the blame fell squarely on Valentino, who was promptly nicknamed "The Pink Powder Puff" and felt obliged to defend his reputation by staging an exhibition boxing match refereed by Jack Dempsey. But criticism of him gathered ferocity. "Why didn't someone quietly drown Rudolf Guglielmi, alias Valentino, years ago?" wondered the Chicago Tribune.

By the mid-Twenties. Valentino's career, like his marriage to Rambova, was on the rocks. But cynical sequels are by no means a modern phenomenon, and the success of The Son of the Sheik (1925) revived some of his dagging appeal. It took his death, however, to restore the

star to the heights of his former popularity. And then some. The death of Valentino made headlines all over the world, and the mass hysteria at his funeral was crowned by the melodramatic performance of his lover, the actress Pola Negri, whose convulsions of grief would not have disgraced The Sheik.

Behind the anguish, there seems little doubt that Negri spotted a great PR opportunity. She asked for Valentino's coffin to be covered with a blanket of white roses, with red roses in the centre spelling out the name POLA in foot-high letters. To her barely concealed fury, the funeral organisers refused. And so she had to settle for collapsing in what apneared to be a dead faint as Rudolf Valentino, icon, was laid to rest.



Crossing the borderline

WE'RE IN Smithie's pub, in Edinburgh's elegant Georgian Newtown, watching Manchester United beat Juventus. The beers are unfamiliar

- Deuchars, Caledonian and McEwan's 80/-. Not a pint of Speckled Hen to be had. But around the table everyone is English. There is even a motif of St George's flag on a mirror nearby, albeit alongside the blue of the St Andrew's flag.

Suddenly, Dwight Yorke breaks through, weaving towards goal only to be felled by the 'keeper before Andy Cole scores United's winner. Everyone, Scots and English alike, rises and roars with delight. We're all on the same side to cheer Alex Ferguson, Scotland's greatest football brain, lead England's greatest club to European success.

But Justin Woodroffe, educated at Westminster public school and an emigre from a smart home in Chelsea, is recalling last year's World Cup. when the English gathered at Smithie's to cheer Glenn Hoddle's men. "I remember being on the train to London during the England-Colombia match," says Justin, just 21 but with a cut-glass accent apparently modified by ancestral indulgence in fine port and cigars. "I had a mini TV with me and all the Scots were cheering the opposition. But when we reached London, I shook hands with them

and there were no hard feelings." It was a charitable reaction. But others may easily feel, given the rise of Scottish nationalism, that life north of the Border is less welcoming than in the days before Mel Gibson took to the kilt and whooped the English in Braveheart. I want to find out if the Anglos feel threatened.

The first problem is finding the Anglos. It is very easy to insult someone who may sound as though he was raised somewhere near Buckingham Palace, but quickly protests that he is broad Scottish and can trace his ancestors back to the Battle of Bannockburn. For example, Magnus Linklater, chair of the Scottish Arts Council and son of Eric Linklater from Orkney, would certainly consider himself Scottish. But Eton took its toll: "I find that the occasional Glasgow taxi driver and people I don't know from Adam ask me when I am going back, or have

I been here long."
Having sorted the posh Scots from the Anglos, the next step is to discover where they congregate. The Anglos do not have an expat network; they like to muck in with what the Scots do. (Justin has even sampled a deep-fried Mars bar.) Unlike Ireland and post-colonial societies such as Zimbabwe (where the Anglo-Irish and the old Rhodesians make sure their farms back on to one another and where each community likes to pray and party together), here the Anglos melt in. But if you want to flush them out in

one spot, football is the key.

My friends watching United in Smithie's definitely are English. And they are used to questions about fitting in during an upsurge of Scottish nationalism. "Every time I phone home they mention it," says Justin, who works for an upmarket letting agent in Edinburgh. "They feel strongly that Scotland is being taken away from them. They can't see the good side of what is happening. My brother thinks Scotland is breaking up the Crown."

agreement, drinking whiskys and vodka (no one touches the beer). So what are the benefits? Jane Rodger launches forth enthusiastically. Aged 35 now, she left London five years ago to become head of department at a bank in Edinburgh. She talks about her Scottish friends, about how Scottishness is inclusive. "I feel I'm a part of it all. I'll go along to a ceilidh and feel welcome." "You're right." says Justin. "They come and take your hand and whisk you off."

For someone like Jane, genteelly middle-class. Scottishness does not mean anti-English, it means feeling comfortable, finding something that perhaps got lost in her stressful yuppie life back in London. "Coming to Scotland is like being in England 20 years ago in terms of values and courtesy. People say 'thank you' when they get off the bus. They are polite on the telephone. A feature of city life in London is that you frequently feel isolated. Here there is more community."

Jane is typical of many English enthusiasts living in Scotland. They are here seeking out something. You will find them up in the Highlands sending their children to schools where they will learn Gaelic. Typically, the English are mod-

erate Scottish nationalists: in the 1992 election almost as large a proportion of them backed the SNP as was the case among native Scots. The Anglos are usually pro-Scottish parliament, but against indepen-dence. Separation would be a step too far, cutting them off from their roots, while the parliament makes the place they have come to more important, less provincial.



Justin Woodroffe, right, and Edouard Sebline in the Smithie's pub in Edinburgh

history of art student at Edinburgh University, sips on his whisky: He doubts that nationalism has a hard edge. "My great-aunt." says Edouard, son of a Kent insurance broker, "has lived here for more than 65 years and of course she has an English accent.

"She says that she has seen the change in national feeling very recently. I feel it is contrived because it helps sell newspapers and suits some politicians. I don't feel it is deep-seated."

I suspect that the English here do not feel threatened by nationalism. because it is anti-metropolitan more than it is anti-English. When the SNP leader Alex Salmond stirs up feeling against "London Labour", his words are reminiscent of William Cobbett's

Edouard Sebline, 21, an urbane English capital, which he considered Christopher Harvie says: "The Yah' a tumour and called the "Great Wen". "These are sentiments," says Christopher Harvie, author of the recent study, Scotland and Nationalism. "which you are just as likely to hear in Hull or Newcastle."

There is, of course, violence against the English. There are occasional stories along the lines of my daughter was spat on in the playground because she was English", which the London press leaps on But one suspects that these stories are often over-simplifications, where nationality has become conflated with other disputes.

Listening to Justin and Edouard, it is clear that alcohol plays a big role in English-Scot conflicts, which sound very like the town vs gown battles found in university towns rantings in the 1820s against the such as Oxford and Cambridge. As

factor is important. If you go into a pub and shout across the bar, "Hilary, are we going up to your Daddy's place in Cromarty for the ball?', the wee Marys tend to get a

Justin and Edouard, each of whom has lived in Scotland for several years, are - like most young people who have encountered pub violence - acutely aware of where the fault line runs between the Scots and the English.

"I realised on New Year's Eve up here," says Justin. "I was with my best friend, who is Scottish, and there were 200,000 people on Princes Street singing Flower of Scotland. I said, 'Hey, this is a bit nationalistic', and my friend gave me a stare which said, 'Don't mess'. With that harsh glance, someone who had

a bit like the instructions on a trea-

sure map, but instead of taking "12

steps to the north, then 30 to nor'

east", you pass through a long white

corridor which echoes to the Smashy

and Nicey gibberings of daytime

Radio 2. then you go up an escalator,

down one floor in a lift, and along a

corridor to a locked door where you

pick up a phone to gain admittance.

A young bloke directs you to a "self-

operating studio", in fact a

claustrophobic cubicle containing little more than chair, table, micro-

Except that my studio was already

occupied. An old geezer had obvi-

ously set up shop for the day in there,

with books and papers scattered

over every surface. He was not best

pleased at being disturbed. "Are you

in here? What, now?" With some re-

luctance, he gathered up his library

into several plastic bags and lurched

out. In the midst of the kerfuffle, he

knocked the earphones on to the floor

and I promptly trod on them. The de-

vice was in several bits when I

picked it up. A wee Scottish voice

was tweeting from the earpieces:

"Hello, Mr Weasel. Are you there?"

gramme will omit the grunting and

cursing that accompanied my on the-

I imagine the completed pro-

phone and earphones.

been a close friend for four years let me know where the borderline is." How far then, I ask, could the Scots go in their nationalism before my drinking partners felt threat-ened? Justin orders another vodka and tells a story.
"I was in this pub watching a

match with a load of English people, and these five Scots came in making a real nuisance of themselves, shouting about the English. They were even pulling at the girls' hair. And people just let them get on with it. It was only when they picked on a black bloke and called him a nigger that everyone got upset and we got angry with them.

"That was a real eye-opener. It was when it stopped being patriotic and became racist that we wouldn't put up with it any longer."

JACK O'SULLIVAN

THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



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A hailstorm hits the terrace To warn that summer's coming And rattles on the skylights A syncopated drumming As glistening in the gutters The hailstones fuse together The Devil's own confern At the marriage of the weather.

The sixth of May approaches And the politicians wait While the dog of devolution Gnaws the ancient bones of state As a ghostly Roman soldier Who is baunting Hadrian's Wall On a wet and windy evening Hears a Pictish warrior call; "So Gordon Brown has done it Stemmed SNP advances But six Scots in the Cabinet? He couldn't take the chances Though miracles allowing If Labour seats should fall The way the mood's been lately We might rebuild you wall." "A good idea," the Roman said With rising tax no doubt You'd need to keep your people in More than to keep us out."

With dentists on the NHS More rare than dung of rocking-horse Britannia's teeth are in a mess No prize for guessing why of course Or when it was the rot set in Or who was in the driver's seat And sacrificed free dental care To boast a better balance sheet.

But nice to hear Rab Butler's thoughts Endorsed, if not exhumed, of late As Peter Lilley praised in speech The virtues of the welfare state And pledge of funds to keep it safe For people of the poorer sort. Let's have a clack of blackened teeth And demonstrate our full support:

So fiddle on, Dave Swarbrick Though poorly, not deceased Who found his own obituary Was premature at least. But most musicians know this Although it goes unsaid: Miss two nights in the taproom Your mates all think you're dead.

THE WEASEL

Pictures at an exhibition evoke memories of a Sixties few people saw, while the stars come under scrutiny in a trip to Broadcasting House

DIAMOND GEEZERS, Ronnie and Reggie. Anyone out east will tell you that. They'd do anything for you, especially if it involved dislocating your jaw or breaking your leg in a couple of places. Nothing was too much trouble. If need be, they'd even do you in entirely. They were

These happy memories came flooding back at the Barbican the other day when I saw the new David Bailey exhibition. The very first snap is a handsome likeness of the twins. looking sharp in some classy threads, accompanied by their pet snakes, Gerrard and Nipper. People often ask me how you could tell them apart. Simple. The snakes are the ones with the warmer eyes.

Not that I ever had the pleasure of meeting R and R myself. But, about a quarter of a century ago, I once worked for a publisher on a book of Bailey's photographs. No. I didn't actually meet him either, if you must know. But I was given a signed print as a souvenir. It's a moody landscape, only slightly marred because someone smudged the signature with a wet finger to find out whether it was real. On these slender grounds, I see myself as something of an authority on the great lensman.

Entitled Birth of the Cool - a title borrowed from an album by Miles Davis, who also appears in one of the photographs - the Barbican show is mainly devoted to Bailey's work in the Sixties. Like lots of other people, I seem to have missed out on the more celebrated aspects of that decade. Who was it who said that their Sixties consisted of standing around in a car park, waiting for the rain to stop? I'm sorry to say that I never glugged Moët et Chandon with Penelope Tree or strolled with the Rolling Stones at Avebury (the ludicrous green shades worn by Keith Richards slightly detract from the mystic nature of the scene). My Sixties were more like the dingy East End shop-fronts photographed by Bailey, which could have come straight out of Dombey & Son. (One establishment boasts of its speciality in "Surgical Boot Repairs", which might have come in handy after a meeting with Ron and Reg.)

In his Harry Palmer persona, a Disque Bleu dangling from his lips, Michael Caine looks the epitome of Sixties cool, which is more than can be said for David Puttnam, Leaping zanily in 1965, he is a spit for Gerry of

the Pacemakers. One wall of the show contrasts portraits from that era with more recent studies. Ollie Reed looks absurd yet dangerous in 1965, while Noel and Liam look plain absurd in 1995.



impressive decked out as Josephine Baker in 1990, but PJ Proby is somewhat less convincing in a Christ-like pose from 1965.

But the undisputed star of the show is Jean Shrimpton. Has ever a model drawn better work from a photographer, or vice versa? Whether clad in a battered trenchcoat at Tower Bridge or smiling gorgeously on a tropical beach, her hair still wet from the sea, she is incomparable. In 1964, she even managed to look magnificent beside Hank B Marvin. (At the time, the strummer was essaying a goatee beard along with his trademark horn-rims, a combination that became fashionable only 35 years later.)

Though Bailey never saw fit to photograph the adolescent Weasel in close proximity to the Shrimp, I may have had a fleeting encounter with her in later years. Sensibly ditching the world of fashion, she became a successful hotelier in Pen-

Naomi Campbell is rather zance. A couple of years ago, I had to pass the night in this Cornish respot repairs to the head-set, but I sort and made my way to what I thought was her establishment. A striking-looking woman behind the counter apologised and said they were full up. Just like the Sixties all over again.

> BRIEFLY DISCARDING his fur mask. the Weasel makes his radio début next week as a contributor to a series of 15-minute programmes called Naming the Universe (Radio 4, Monday-Friday, 3.30pm). I wouldn't be so vain as to mention it, except for the strange experience of my first-ever visit to Broadcasting House (or BH. as we old pros call it) where I was interviewed "down the line" from

This is what happens. After you enter, under Epstein's notorious sculpture of an anatomically correct Ariel, a security guard gives you directions on a slip of paper. These are

doubt if the producers will be able to transmute my panting contribution into the soigné delivery of an Alvar Liddell. One final point may be puzzling you, as it has puzzled most of my friends. Viz: what the blue blazes is the Wease! doing on a programme about astronomical nomenclature? Regular readers of this column may recall my delighted discovery that on Venus there are places called Christie (after Agatha) and Sayers (after Dorothy L.). Mystery solved.

> THE CENTENARY of the birth of Noël Coward has prompted the publication of his revues of the Twenties, such as On With the Dance and Sigh No More. "A sketch for a revue must be sharp, funny and to the point, with a good, really good black-out line," insisted the Master. "Whether the performers are naked or wearing crinolines is beside the point: the same rule applies."

I'm pleased to see that the art of the revue is still alive and well at the Albany Theatre in Deptford, Admittedly the treats on offer, which include "local legend" Rubber Johnny and "Lewisham-based freakshow" Shagnasty, do not sound much like

Sir Noël's blithe triumphs. But, as long as they have a really good black-out line, I'm sure he would approve.

DAYS LIKE THESE

24 APRIL 1949

JULIEN GREEN, American writer living in Paris, notes in his diary:

"Read the Introduction to Kierkegaard by Jolivet. Few books have upset me so much since I came into this world. It is horrifying at times to discover oneself in another man, and this happened to me when I



read this book. But isn't it the role of very great men to reveal us to ourselves? I mean that they teach us what we knew without knowing that we knew it. In this sense, Kierkegaard's sentences are like so many magic mirrors where the soul is reflected and sees itself for the first time."

26 APRIL 1915

WNP BARBELLION. naturalist and writer, notes in his journal:

"In the spirit of pious resignation Thomas à Kempis wrote: Meddle not with things that be too high for thee, but study such things as yield compunction to the heart rather than elevation to the head.' I like to put alongside this the delightful passage from Sir Thomas Browne's Religio: 'I love to lose myself in a mystery, to pursue my reason to an O altitudo! This my solitary recreation to pose my apprehension with those involved enigmas and riddle of the Trinity, Incarnation and Resurrection.' Recreation is great!

"I have always meddled with things that are too high for me, my first adventure being Berkeley at the age of 15, a philosopher who captured my amazement over a period of many months. Like a little London gamin, I run about the great city of the mind and hang on behind the big motor lorries of thought. Looked at from the point of view of multiplicity, duration disintegrates into a powder of moments, none of which endures, each being an instantaniety.' No matter if I do not understand Bergson: in a sentence like that I catch at least the rumour of some tremendous thought. It is like putting one's ear to a telegraph pole on top of a wind-swept heath..."

26 APRIL 1972

NED ROREM composer, writes in his journal:

"It is important to be alive. For every Sylvia Plath who made a living out of dying, 20 good poets' credit is cancelled by death. Death does not reduce a painter's cachet, since his work is an investment; but an original manuscript by a Plath isn't 'worth' anything. No sooner does an artist die than his work locates itself, becomes less urgent, asks to be balanced and judged."



THE SATURDAY ESSAY

حكذا من الاحل

It is 50 years old, but what has Nato got to celebrate?



MICHAEL HOWARD

The idea of dismantling the Western alliance has been raised, usually on the other side of the Atlantic

THIS MONTH Nato celebrates its golden anniversary, but the weekend's celebrations in Washington are unlikely to be so cheerful as those held in London a few weeks ago. A month is a long time in politics, especially if war happens to have broken out in the meantime.

So, far from being an exercise in selfcongratulation, the meeting is more likely to be a worried council of war - a kind of war that the Alliance has never fought, and was never intended to fight.

Nato still has much to congratulate itself about. It can rightly claim to have fulfilled all its original aims, which were well defined by its first Secretary-General, Lord Ismay, as being to keep the Americans in the Russians out, and the Germans down. The Americans became deeply committed to the defence of Western Europe against what was perceived, rightly or wrongly, as a Soviet threat of military conquest. The Federal Republic of Germany was peacefully absorbed into a Western Europe whose unity its leaders played a major role in creating. Whether the Soviet threat was exaggerated or not, American protection enabled Western Europe to recover its nerve politically and to create an economy wealthy beyond any historical precedent. The price paid was the abandonment of Central and Eastern Europe to Soviet control; but, even there, the stability created by the Iron Curtain was preferable to a third World War.

Now the Cold War is over, and Nato can take much of the credit; not just for keeping it cold, but for oringing it to an end at the earliest possible moment with a remarkable absence of bitterness on either side. "The German Problem" is now history. The Soviet Union no longer exists. For the past 10 years, therefore, the Allies have been debating how to reconstruct the Alliance to meet an entirely new situation.

The idea of dismantling Nato altogether has occasionally been raised, usually on the other side of the Atlantic, but never taken seriously. Nato is not just a military alliance; it is an institution, with a large military and civil bureaucracy whose members have a vested interest in its survival. The armed forces of the smaller European powers make no sense except within the Alliance framework, while the Germans still see the Alliance as a necessary legitimisation of their own military power. Most of them would agree that the renationalisation of European armed forces would be a foolish, if not dangerous. retrograde step; Nato provides for Europeans a "security community" that guarantees them against threats not only from outside but also from one another. Also, it does so on the cheap: the Americans still provide all the expensive hardware and infrastructure, the cost of which would severely erode even the wealthiest European economy.

The American interest in Nato is more subtle. The United States still feels itself deeply committed to the preservation of world order. Its enemies may see this order as a hegemony based on economic motives; its friends share the belief that it is a genuine and admirable moral commitment; but in any case it is a burden that the Americans are reluctant to carry on their own. They need to believe that when they do intervene to protect or restore that order, they are doing so on behalf of the "in-

ternational community". Initially, they hoped that this community



Harry Truman, US President, signing the ratification of the North Atlantic pact at the White House in Washington in July 1949

might be embodied in the United Nations. For a few golden years at the end of the Cold War, when the Russians were compliant supplicants if not partners for the United States, and the Chinese were post-Tianenmen pariahs, perhaps it really was. But this is no longer the case; the UN is seen as being too divided in its councils to provide a supportive consensus for Amermunity" is, for the United States, its like-minded partners in Nato, whose cooperation it seeks in order to legitimise its actions. For Washington the military importance of Nato may have dwindled with the end of the Cold War, but the political significance of the Alliance is greater than ever. In consequence the Americans, so far from wishing to wind up Nato, have sought to expand both its membership and its field of action beyond the strict defensive limits of Europe and North America that are laid down in the text of the treaty. "Out of area," as one American congressman brutally put it, "or out of business".

Throughout the first 50 years of its existence, the members of the Alliance quarrelled bitterly over two major issues: the requirements of nuclear deterrence and the desirability of political detente. The literature dealing with these subjects was as voluminous, and is now as irrelevant, as theological tomes debating the Real Presence. Recently Nato has been wrestling with three very different problems: the expansion of membership: the assumption of responsibilities "out of area"; and the development within the Alliance of a distinct European element, a "European Security and Defence Identity", to match the growing political and economic unity of the continent. So the Allies had plenty on their minds even before they became involved in the third Balkan war.

Let us take the last issue first. In principle, the Americans have been supportive of a distinctive European contribution to the Alliance. Ever since the days of John F Kennedy they have been urging the Europeans to combine so as to take their fair share of the burden of their own defence. and to create a "second pillar" for Nato. More recently they have seen the additional advantage of a European force that might be used in situations where domestic

public opinion would not permit the commitment of US troops, but for which the US might provide the necessary logistical support. Among Europeans, the French have been most eager to see this develop: a separate command of this kind would provide them with the opportunity to exert military leadership in Europe and counterbalance the Anglo-Saxon dominance they so much resent. The maastricht Treaty, with its commitment to a common European defence and foreign policy, provided the catalyst for a renewed initiative, but one which both the Americans and the British have regarded with deep suspicion. So for a decade the Allies have been wrangling over the possibility of creating what they term "combined joint task forces", which would be "separable but not separate" (an endlessly repeated mantra), producing mountains of paper, clouds of new acronyms, and a general atmosphere in Brussels of cynical confusion. Recently Mr Blair has tried to show what a good European he is by sinking his differences with the French, but "the European defence identity" remains a concept that has yet

to be clothed with flesh. Secondly there is Nato expansion - an issue over which the Alliance is still deeply divided, though not on national lines. On the one side are those who see Nato primarily as a mutually supportive alliance of democracies to which any like-minded state is entitled to belong, especially those who suffered for so long under Soviet oppression. On the other are those concerned with the military and political effectiveness of an Alliance that can barely function with 16 members, and for whom More will inevitably mean Worse. They are joined by Realpolitikers for whom good relations with Russia take precedence over sentimental feelings towards small states in Central Europe who are more likely to prove military liabilities rather than assets. and in any case have nowhere else to go.

The decision to admit Poland. Hungary and the Czech Republic was taken in Washington largely in response to ethnic domestic pressures, and on the urging of a Czech-born Secretary of State. These three states can certainly claim to have been arbitrarily separated from a West to which they culturally belong, but their ad-

mission opens a Pandora's box; especially since it has been officially declared that they will not be the last. Who next? Hungary's admission makes little strategic sense unless it is joined by its neighbour Slovenia. The French will not rest content without the admission of their traditional ally Romania, and can Bulgaria then be left isolated between Romania and Turkey? ones who might still need protection against the Russians? For the unfortunate military staffs whose task it is to integrate the wildly differing armed forces of these countries into the Alliance's structure and plan their integrated defence, the prospect is a nightmare.

If it could be accepted that the collapse of the Soviet Union implies that Nato need no longer be regarded as a serious military alliance, but simply as a "security community" of friendly and like-minded nations, a sort of inner circle of the Partnership for Peace, then no problem arises. Membership could then be mended almost indefinitely, and the swords could be beaten, if not into ploughshares, then into bayonets for purely ceremonial use. But that is not the way the United States sees it, which brings us to the final problem: Out of Area".

"More means Worse" not just for military planners but also for political decisionmakers. Even over issues narrowly concerned with area defence, it has always been a herculean task to get agreement between Copenhagen, Lisbon, Rome, Oslo, Paris. London and Washington, not to mention Athens and Ankara. To toss Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, Bucharest and possibly Vilnius into this cauldron can result only in political boil-and-bubble with a minimum of positive result. Any suggestion of supporting United States intervention anywhere outside the European area, unless it bears the imprimatur of the United Nations or directly threatens common European interests, is likely to provoke strong domestic dissent in every member of the Alliance. The more widely membership of the Alliance is extended, the more likely is this to be the case.

The exception, of course, is the Balkans The author was Regius Professor of - that squalling fosterchild deposited on the modern history at Oxford University lap of the European Powers by the dying from 1980 to 1989

Ottoman Empire a century and a half ago. The Balkans are hardly "out of area" for Greece, Turkey or Hungary, and would not be for Slovenia, Bulgaria or Romania were they to join. The region has always

played a large if unwelcome role in the foreign policies of France, Britain and Italy, it is of special interest to Russia, and in consequence to Realpolitikers in the United mantle of the European Powers which repeatedly found themselves compelled collectively to intervene in the region between 1875 and 1914, when their involvement escalated into a global conflict whose consequences pushed the region on to the back-burner for the rest of the century.

Now it is back on the agenda. The European members of the Alliance are involved, not as loyal allies supporting and legitimising an American-inspired intervention, but as the legatees of the old Concert of Europe and thus principal actors in their own right. The United States is involved, not just to pull European chestnuts out of the fire for them, but also in a moral crusade against evil - and this is a point as constantly and skilfully made to them by the British Prime Minister today as it was 60 years ago - of the kind that they believed they were waging in both World Wars. Suddenly the Alliance has found a purpose to justify its existence to the most sceptical of its critics.

It is still far too soon to pronounce judgement on the effectiveness of Nato intervention in Kosovo and its consequences for the Alliance. Nato will probably "win", but it could be at a cost that so embitters relations between the Allies as to make future co-operation almost impossible. More probably, the difficulties and hazards of the operation will draw them closer together. But almost certainly the result will be a lasting commitment to policing the region, of a kind that the Powers

before 1914 did their very best to avoid. The Balkans may or may not be "out of area", but either way they are likely to keep the Alliance "in business" for a very long

time to come.

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY



Ffantastic Welcome to the Leaders' Wives section of The Independent. Ffion Hague wore this saristyle dress to a do for Asian businessmen. The striking outfit was made from exquisite turquoise silk, cost £400 and was the work of the

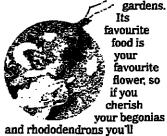
talented young designer Raishma Islam. But this didn't stop it – and Ffion - getting mixed press reviews along the lines of "un-fflattering ffashion ffiasco". Time to turn the tide. The Ffion Ffan Ffederation (Unofficial) is now open, membership is free, and you don't have to be a Conservative, or even like her hubby much, to join. Contact s.ogrady@independent.co.uk or 0171-293 2032. Ffion flights back.

Nice Neanderthals It may be a popular term of abuse, but "Neanderthal" derives, of course, from the type of primitive hominid whose remains were first discovered in the Neander valley, Germany, in 1856. Ever since, we've thought that the Neanderthals were unrelated to us humans. But just look at this reconstruction



of Neanderthal domesticity provided by the Natural History Museum. Flintstones-like, the scene has much resonance for Homo sapiens, with its quarrelling juveniles and Mr Neanderthal's garment of choice, a tasselled suede jacket. Unprepossessing they may seem, but Mr and Mrs Neanderthal obviously had more sex appeal then we have given them credit for Archaeologists have just discovered a "missing link" that suggests that when Cro-Magnon early men met the Neanderthals in what is now Spain, they did not, as previously thought, just wipe them out, but instead got down to making whoopee and hybrid babies. So just remember: there's a little bit of Neanderthal in all of us.

Evil weevil The vine weevil, a real-life millennium bug, is thriving as never before and is about to invade our

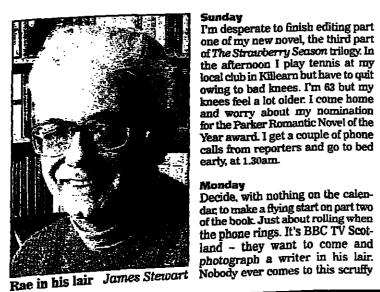


www.vine.weevil.org.uk

favourite flower, so if you cherish your begonias choose the lesser of two weevils and consult the Vine Weevil Advice Centre:

Image of the week A majestic portrait by Andrew Buurman, of Sylvester the iguana, a miniature Godzilla dumped in a field of sheep and rescued by the wonderful and





I'm desperate to finish editing part one of my new novel, the third part of The Strawberry Season trilogy. In the afternoon I play tennis at my local club in Killearn but have to quit owing to bad knees. I'm 63 but my knees feel a lot older. I come home and worry about my nomination for the Parker Romantic Novel of the Year award. I get a couple of phone calls from reporters and go to bed early, at 1.30am.

Decide, with nothing on the calendar, to make a flying start on part two of the book. Just about rolling when the phone rings. It's BBC TV Scotland - they want to come and photograph a writer in his lair.

bile hazard. I'm a heavy smoker: no other human has been in my study for 20 years. But they duly arrive and insist on coming in. It obviously appals them: the reporter conducts the interview from behind his hand to avoid the smell. The item is for the end of the Scottish News. I phone all surviving relatives so they don't miss my moment of glory.

I continue to worry about the awards. I don't sleep well, but blame my knees not my nervous system.

Catch the train from Glasgow to London. I am staying at a hotel in Euston. Go to see An Ideal Husband with a friend; it is quite relaxing. Talking to another writer helps me calm down. We go for an Italian in Leicester Square. I return to my

MY WEEK

HUGH C RAE, ROMANTIC NOVELIST, WHO WRITES AS JESSICA STIRLING

Liz. After a chat I worry about not getting enough sleep. I read Peter Ackroyd's biography of Thomas More. He's lucky not to have been nominated for the award. Martyrdom looks easy by comparison.

Get up. have breakfast and put on the dreaded blue suit worn only for other people's funerals. I'm doing an interview for Radio 5 Live; John Humphrys is the presenter. I've

hotel and call my dearly beloved wife, done quite a lot of radio in Scotland and feel confident. Although in

> the studio makes me feel important. I'm taken to meet the seven other short-listed writers for a photo shoot. l am the only man - the token doddery male grump. Someone produces a red rose and wants me to put it between my teeth, the height of banality and a line I decide

> closet, here the mere cleanliness of

not to cross. More photos in front of Eros in remained steady for years.

Piccadilly Circus. I manage to Thursday smoke about six fags undetected. Buy two bags of Thorntons choco-Passers-by regard us with mild curiosity: obviously too old for models, maybe a terrorist group?

At the lunch, Derek Parker announces the winner, a young girl called Claire. It's only her third novel. I feel a sense of relief. My only disappointment is not winning the Scotland the BBC stick you in a five grand. I've never been interested in fame and glory.

I have a couple of glasses of red wine and chew the fat with some friends. I call my wife to check she has recorded ER. She is mildly disappointed by the results. She enjoyed my crime novels more and is quite sorry that I gave them up. Unfortunately, romantic novels make more money and Jessica has

lates, a romantic gesture of a practical nature, and the papers. None

carries any news of the awards. Thank God I'm back to work tomorrow. I read the papers, drink coffee and smoke several packets of cigarettes on the train. At home I check no one has stolen the squirrels from the garden. Unfortunately not, I watch ER and unplug the phone.

Look at part two of my novel. I am feeling rather optimistic as I pick up the 1899 copy of The Forester for my research. It's been a hectic, worrying week. I have enjoyed myself. though I would probably have had more fun if I hadn't been nominated. INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE

Regina Gillinson-Schein

THE CELLIST Regina Gillinson- ful performing career But by 1935 ences. However, the marriage began Schein would seem to hold the ecord for ubiquity in a profession where ubiquity is for most a way of ife. She was a fine musician who played under many great conductors and partnered some of the most accomplished musicians of her time, while her adventures and romances read like a novel.

She was born Regina Schein in 1908 in Zurich into a family of Russian Jewish musicians and watchmakers who had settled in Switzerland after escaping from the ghetto in Ekaterinoslav in Russia. She began her studies on the piano but when her teacher hit her knuckles with a ruler she retaliated. thereby terminating all prospects of a career as a pianist.

At 11, "Wecki", as she was known, took lessons on the cello from the celebrated cellist and musicologist Joachim Stutchewsky, and made such phenomenal progress that by the time she was 14 she and her pianist sister Gilia both went straight from school each day to play in their tather's band at the silent cinema.

At 21 she married Joseph Feldman, whose business interests were in China. On arrival in Shanghai she discovered that Feldman's friends and relatives spoke only Russian or English. She spoke neither, but within two months taught herself basic Russian by reading the classics and look-

ing up every word in the dictionary. She continued to play the cello and soon achieved a following on the concert platform. When offered a teaching job at the Manila Academy in the Philippines, she accepted despite the fact that she knew nothing about teaching and spoke no English (the academy's official language). She wrote to Stutchewsky for advice and he sent her a long letter outlining the main principles of teaching;

she also set about learning English. Her husband joined her and for the next four years Regina taught cello and built up a highly success-

the marriage was over and she returned to Europe and continued her studies with Stutchewsky. Within six months she had established a major solo career and become known throughout Europe, one of the highlights being a performance of the Dvorak Concerto in Prague under Rafael Kubelik and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 1938 she and Stutchewsky married in Switzerland. This coincided with the Nazi invasion of Austria and

'When, aged nearly 90, she fractured her arm, she simply started working on the piano until she could lift her bow and play her cello again'

Stutchewsky, an ardent Zionist, felt they should go to Palestine. For the next two years Regina continued her career in her adopted country. achieving success in cities, villages and kibbutzim alike. She became captivated by the idealism, energy and commitment of the people there, acquiring a vivid sense of Jewish history and a pride in her own Jewish roots.

There were dangers too: in 1940 the Stutchewskys just missed being killed when the Italians bombed Tel Aviv. Regina was injured and her cello smashed to pieces. She borrowed a cello and continued to perform, undaunted by the dangers but inspired by the passion of the audito flounder and she and her husband agreed to divorce.

None the less her performing career continued to flourish in Palestine, and it was on a concert tour of the Middle East that she met Stanley Gillinson, on leave from the British Army in India, whom she married in Jaffa in 1945. Once again her nomadic existence survived postings from Cairo to Bangladesh and she continued her career. pausing only to give birth to their two children, Clive and Sandra.

After a brief return to England. the family set off for India, where they lived luxuriously for a time. After Gandhi's assassination in 1948 life for Europeans changed and she returned to England with her children. Her husband, who had stayed in India to settle their affairs, shortly afterwards sent a cable asking if she would agree to go and live on a farm in Kenya. Never one to shirk a challenge, she set off for yet another new start in Africa.

Life there was very lonely but, resourceful as ever, Schein discovered a love for gardening that was to remain a consuming passion for the rest of her life. After three years on the farm she decided to return to England in order to send her children to school. It was then that her husband wrote asking for a separation. She was devastated but again accepted the situation with fortitude.

She had to work hard to rebuild her career earning a living through teaching and freelancing. She played regularly with the Goldsborough, the English Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia from 1956 until the early 1970s, and was involved in a great deal of chamber music which she loved. She also formed a highly successful trio with the pianist Natalia Karp and the violinist Henriette Cante, made appearances on BBC TV and toured in Europe, as well as touring Israel in 1968 and 1970.

She settled in Priory Gardens in



of the London Symphony Orchestra,

described her remarkable gift of

friendship and her loving, gentle,

passionate and enthusiastic nature.

"She always had time for everyone

and I am proud that all our family

have inherited that enthusiasm.

even if we do drive people crazy with

it at times. She never did anything

by halves, whether it was her love for

her family, her knitting of squares for

blankets for Oxfam, which I think

could probably cover the whole of

Africa, her garden - which is almost

certainly the most beautiful for miles

around - and always her music."

Hampstead, north London, where, in her spare time, she tended her garden with the energy of a woman half her age. Despite the failure of three marriages, she eventually found happiness in a loving relationship with the Viennese-born architect Joseph Berger, notable exponent in Britain of the Viennese Modernist School of Architecture. This was an ideal partnership which endured until Berger died in 1989. She continued to play right up until her death and on her 90th birthday recorded the first movement of the Bach G Major Solo Cello Suite, which was played at her funeral service.

He went on to say that music remained the centre of Regina Her son, Clive Gillinson, manager

Gillinson-Schein's life. "She never prime concern, and the place became stopped playing or listening to a focal point for many people's music, and even when she frac- lives. Local events, from literary tured her arm shortly before her 90th birthday, simply started working on the piano until she was able to lift her bow and play her cello again."

MARGARET CAMPBELL

Regina Rebecca Schein, cellist: born Zurich, Switzerland 30 April 1908; married 1920 Joseph Feldman (marriage dissolved 1935), 1938 Joachim Stutchensky (marriage dissolved 1940), 1945 Stanley Gillinson (deceased; one son, and one daughter deceased); died London 7 April 1999.

George Clive

GEORGE CLIVE was that rare being a countryman and an intellectual.

His father, who came from a long line of soldiers (which included Clive of India), was killed in action in 1943, when his son was only two years old. From his mother's side, he inherited the remarkable Pakenham intellect. He belonged to an extended family of distinguished writers and historians.

This coupling of inherited traits acute intelligence combined with a stoic sense of duty - was to remain with him all his life. While still at Eton he began to take control of the once derelict family estate in Herefordshire. With the help of Ian Howie, who was his farm manager for over 30 years. Whitfield became a model estate. Their management, guided by both conservation and innovation, was remarkably successful. It is rare to find 1,200 acres of dedicated woodland containing a champion oak tree, and an unrivalled stand of Californian Redwoods. Rarer still is a farm where the diversification is so imaginative that the crops include fields of parsley, squirrel-poisoning hoppers with dormouse defeating doors and hundreds of Himalayan Blue poppies.

Although Clive's first love was forestry, he was equally able to focus on wild flowers. In a short paper written about conservation practice at Whitfield, he describes an embargo on late summer mowing which ensured the survival of a colony of Ladies' Tresses orchids on the lawn. In the same paper is a meticulous record of the increase in flowering spikes of the Marsh Helleborine, from six in 1983, to 210 in 1992.

All the work at Whitfield was done for the benefit of the estate and of the people whose lives were involved in it. Providing jobs was a gatherings at the Hay Festival, to country fairs, church fetes, timber growers, international dendrologists and charities of all kinds, homed in on Whitfield.

The lakes and follies that Clive designed and built at Whitfield with his own hands, and the trees that he planted, made a garden worthy of the picturesque landscape that surrounded it. As a gardener, his knowledge was formidable. He judged trees and shrubs for the Royal Horticultural Society (he could spot a Magnolia hypoleuca from 200 paces). and at home he always had an eye for the best plant.

His good-mannered modesty meant that he spoke rarely at meetings, but when he did, it was worth listening. As a member of the National Trust's Estates and Gardens Panels, his advice was invaluable. He enormously enjoyed his role as Chairman of the Herefordshire branch of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, attending meetings and James Komack as a Bilko-type about bamboos or ferns with the same gusto as he brought to everything he did.

A fast mover he was hard to keep a pace with, and his conversation was hardly pedestrian. The perpetual quest for knowledge was conducted at a cracking pace. Blessed with an encyclopaedic mind, he never confined it to country life, but read voraciously, novels, biographies, poetry, newspapers and any printed matter, absorbing information like a magnet attracts iron filings. He spent the two days before he died learning the Latin names of all the diseases on the ward at St Thomas'.

Clive never married, but for the last 15 years he shared his life with the painter Penny Graham, who and enthusiasms. Together they enjoyed theatres, art galleries, travel, gardens and the friends who were



Clive: an eye for the best plant

insights on contemporary legal life regularly and generously enterand politics. But it was generally tained at Whitfield

A host of people who regarded George Clive as a tower of strength was shocked by the suddenness of his death, from lung cancer. He seemed to have more energy than a teenager, and his immunity to physical discomfort was legendary. The man who could linger in the sub-zero temperatures of the Kew Seed Bank at Wakehurst was never one to

complain of feeling ill.

1942; died London 17 April 1999.

Don McGuire

DURING THE last half of the Forties, Don McGuire enjoyed a steady career in films as an actor, typifying the regular all-American "Joe" in likeable fashion without ever making the sort of impression that would lead to major stardom. In 1951 he wisely switched to writing, for which his background in journalism had prepared him, and directing.

Though much of his work was undistinguished, he had a hand in the writing of two outstanding movies, John Sturges's fine thriller Bad Day at Black Rock and Sydney Pollack's comedy Tootsie, for which McGuire received an Oscar nomination, along with his cowriters Larry Gelbart and Murray Schisgal. He also worked extensively in television, creating the hit show Hennessey. Born in Chicago in 1919, McGuire

worked on local Hearst newspapers as a journalist, then after spending four years in the US Army went to Hollywood as a press agent. His boyish charm led to the offer of a film contract with Warners and he made his screen début as a wounded soldier in Pride of the Marines (1945). Roles followed in two of Joan Crawford's best films, Humoresque (1946, as a barman) and Possessed (1947), as a hospital intern tending

to the traumatised Crawford. In Noro. Prentiss (1947), he was a young van driver who starts the film's events in motion when he runs down and slightly injures Ann Sheridan, and in The Man I Love (1947), starting Ida Lupino, he had one of his best roles as a young husband who spoils his flighty wife (Dolores Moran).

undercover ruse.

starring Sinatra.

credits came when he wrote the orig-

When Warners let him go in 1948

he found himself mainly in B movies, though one of them, Richard Fleischer's Armoured Car Robbery (1950) was a superior thriller in which McGuire made a strong impression as Danny Ryan, a rookie detective assigned to work with a seasoned veteran (Charles Mc-Graw) who has just lost his partner. At the film's climax, Ryan nearly loses his life during a tense

One of McGuire's last films as an actor was Double Dynamite (1951), in which he played the womanising son of a bank manager - an important film for him in that he formed a friendship with its star, Frank Sinatra. Later McGuire was to write the Sinatra film Meet Danny Wilson (1952) and both write and direct the western Johnny Concho (1956)



Jessica Lange and Dustin Hoffman in Tootsie, 1982; McGuire won an Oscar nomination for the screenplay

inal stories for two B thrillers, Double Deal (1950), a murder mystery set in the world of oil-wells, and Dial 1119 (1950), a minor but engrossing movie set in a bar where a psychopath (Marshall Thompson) holds McGuire's first screenwriting captive a disparate group of customers. The film made notable use

of the bar's television set to further the narrative, one of the first times that the then-fresh medium had been used as an important plot device. McGuire's script for Meet Danny Wilson was a skilful blend of Janet Leigh musical Walking My Baby Back Home (1953) was tediously lacklustre.

He fared better with his adaptation of a Howard Breslin story, Bad Day at Black Rock (1955), though Millard Kaufman wrote the final screenplay for this powerful drama in which a one-armed stranger (Spencer Tracy) arrives in a remote western town just after the end of the Second World War and uncovers a dark secret. McGuire co-scripted two Martin and Lewis vehicles, Three Ring Circus (1955) and one of their best films Artists and Models (1956). McGuire was one of four writers (including the director Frank Tashlin) on the latter, but Jerry Lewis thought highly of his work, and, when the comic turned producer the following year to make his first solo starring vehicle, he engaged McGuire both to write and direct.

A satire on films about juvenile delinquency, The Delicate Delinquent was, like McGuire's Sinatra western Johnny Concho, only a moderate success and McGuire moved into television where, in 1959, he created, as writer, producer and director, the series Hennessey, comedy and drama neatly tailored which ran for three seasons. Set at for Sinatra, but his story and screen- a naval base in San Diego, it starred

play for the Donald O'Connor- Jackie Cooper as a young medical officer who treated the base personnel and their families, with Abby Dalton as his nurse-sweetheart naval dentist.

McGuire spent most of the next 20 years working in television, and during that time wrote three novels largely based on his experiences, The Day Television Died, 1600 Floogle Street and The Hell With Walter Cronkite. When McGuire returned to the big screen, it was with a gigantic success. Tootsie (1982), for which he and Larry Gelbart wrote the original story. One of the highest-grossing films in the history of Columbia Pictures, this trenchant comedy of sexual identity and the vagaries of show business was an enormous hit and won an Oscar nomination for its screenplay. McGuire expressed displeasure at some of the changes that were supported him in all his interests made to the original conception – the final screenplay was by Gelbart and Murray Schisgal, with uncredited additional work by Elaine May.

TOM VALLANCE

Don McGuire, actor, screenwriter and producer: born Chicago 28 February 1919; died Los Angeles 13

ing diaries which he had kept for

much of his life: Lord Advocate's

Diary (1991), Judge's Diary (1995)

and QC's Diary (1998). These con-

tained entertaining anecdotes and

felt that they revealed more about

Stott the man than about the

RONALD KING MURRAY

personalities targeted.

Lord Stott



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WITH THE death of Gordon Stott, Scotland has lost a distinguished judicial figure and a remarkable legal personality some months short of his 90th birthday.

After a notable career at the Scottish Bar, where he acted predominantly for industrial workers in accident cases, Scott was Lord Advocate in the first Wilson administration from 1964 to 1967. It was an office in which he relished his total public prosecutor and legal adviser, for his independence of mind and outspokenness were characteristic. As Lord Advocate then he was responsible for promoting certain overdue law reforms which had been advocated but not implemented and for the setting up of the Scottish Law Commission alongside its

He became a Senator of the College of Justice (High Court judge in Scotland) in 1967, retiring in 1984 on reaching the statutory age limit of 75, latterly having served in the First Division appeal court (formerly chaired by the late Lord

Clyde, the Lord President Clyde). Stott had an acute legal mind partly hidden behind a somewhat bluff, nononsense and gently mocking manner His pleading was a model of forceful independence of government as a economy and he was a formidable opponent as Lord Clyde found the hard way - by having his adverse judgments routinely reversed when Stott appealed them to the House of Lords (which could have benefited from having him as a Lord of Appeal).

Gordon Stott was born in 1909, a son of the manse. He had a conventional education at Edinburgh counterpart for England and Wales. Academy and Edinburgh Universi-

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ty where he was a distinguished law scholar. He espoused socialist politics in the 1930s which did not endear him to the legal establishment when he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1936. He was a founder member of the Muir Society of Labour lawyers just before the outbreak of the Second World War and for a time he was secretary of the Edinburgh Trades Council.

As a man of strong principles he was a pacifist and conscientious objector during the war, doing agricultural work in place of military service. He gave his services free as counsel for other objectors before the tribunal for conscientious objectors. During the war years he edited a Labour journal, the Edinburgh Clorion. Though a Labour parliamentary candidate on several occasions he was not elected to Parliament.

After the war he was an Advocate-Depute (prosecuting counsel) and took silk in 1950. Before being appointed Lord Advocate in 1964 he was a member of the Monopolies Commission, 1949-56, and Sheriff Principal of Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk, 1961-64.

In his personal life Stott was friendly and compassionate, with a preference for plain speaking and zero tolerance for hypocrisy or pretension. A tall figure with a somewhat windswept look, he was to be seen striding over the local hills or walking his dog (which was said on occasion to accompany him to court - and in court - when he was a judge). As a keen walker his latter years were unhappily restricted by failing legs. His mind remained as sharp as ever After retiring Stott published

three biographical volumes reflect-

George Gordon Stott, judge: born Edinburgh 22 December 1909; Editor. Edinburgh Clarion 1939-44; Advocate-Depute 1947-51; QC 1950; Sheriff of Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk 1961-64; PC 1964; Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland (as Lord Stott) 1967-84; married 1947 Nancy Braggins (one son, one daughter); died Edinburgh 12 and landowner, born 29 December

MARY KEEN

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George Meysey Clive, gardener



Kevan Hunt

AS HEAD of Industrial Relations at the National Coal Board, Kevan Hunt held one of the most difficult management jobs in post-war Britain.

He assumed responsibility for industrial relations at a critical period of the year-long miners' strike of 1981-85, and then undertook the job of making thousands of miners redundant in preparation for privatisation. Had he been a convinced Thatcherite, both tasks would have been undertaken with relish. However Hunt was no hard-line monetarist and he never forgot his humble origins in the industry; he had begun his career as a colliery electrician in Derbyshire.

Hunt felt like "piggy in the middle" between the Thatcher government, which harboured an ideological passion to defeat the left-led National Union of Mineworkers, and the revolutionary socialism of Arthur Scargill, its leader. During that bitter struggle, in which many mineworkers lost their homes and others saw their families split apart under the pressure, Hunt would privately express his intense frustration with the obduracy of both the government and the leadership of the NUM. He succeeded Ned Smith as head of industrial relations in 1985, just over halfway through the dispute.

The strike took its toll on Hunt. There were prolonged periods of intense activity, often under the glare of the world's media. There was the consciousness that he was a key player in one of the most important periods in post-war British history and there was the realisation that the future of many thousands of miners and their families was partly in his hands. At one stage he believed the great conflict - which saw some of the most oppressive policing in and retraining for those who wanted it.

to resolution. The opportunity ebbed away however and Hunt admitted weepin frustration. He was, he said, 'bloody distraught" at the time.

Hunt did not allow his concern for the industry and its employees to interfere with his strongly pragmatic approach. He was a clever, hard-nosed negotiator and often appeared abrasive to those he faced across the table. To ordinary mineworkers Hunt would have appeared as something of an ogre, although they cast most senior managers in such a role. All coal board employees knew was that he was the man who helped to preside over an industrial relations cataclysm and what they saw as the virtual destruction of the industry. In the early 1980s coalmining employed

200,000; today the figure is nearer 10,000. His single-minded approach to dealing with union negotiators was tempered Hunt: 'piggy in the middle' by his sense of humour. He had the capacity to go toe-to-toe with the trade unionist and then immediately afterwards inquire quite genuinely about their well-being. After the strike Hunt was never to face Arthur Scargill over a bargaining table because the NUM leader refused to negotiate alongside the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, a breakaway organisation which helped

to defeat the strike. If Hunt was responsible for helping to contract the industry - although he fought tooth and nail to keep some collieries open - he was anxious to help ameliorate the impact of the policy on miners and those who relied on collieries. As head of industrial relations from 1985 to 1988, and then as a director of the board until 1991, he attempted to ensure proper financial compensation for redundant pitmen peacetime modern Britain - was near From 1993 to 1996 he was chairman of ed the mettle of the man. Only the far



British Coal Enterprise and helped to involve the private and public sector in the creation of 130,000 jobs in areas affected by colliery closures.

He was active in attempting to regenerate industry in other parts of the country through his presidency of the Prince's Youth Business Trust in Nottinghamshire and through membership of government regeneration agencies. After his retirement the World Bank sought his help in restructuring coal industries in Eastern Europe and Russia. People associated with him in these endeavours tell how senior business people and major players in the public services would always attempt to be at meetings when Hunt was in attendance. They realised that he had been at the "sharp end" of an industry during one of its most turbulent periods.

It was the miners' strike which test-

left in the NUM painted him as little better than their sworn enemies in the Thatcher government. Hunt was particularly hurt to receive a letter from Arthur Scargill on his retirement which accused him of relishing the destruction of the industry. Scargill expressed delight at his departure.

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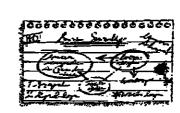
Kevan Hunt might have pursued a career in politics. He was a member of the Amber Valley District Council for 12 years and was its leader for three years until 1976 when he moved to the coal board's industrial relations department in London. In later years he was able to go back to his roots, spending more time with former Derbyshire miners with whom he felt quite at home.

His inability to come to terms with Conservative governments, both during and after the strike, cost him a place in the honours list. Last year, however, he became a member of the Royal Victorian Order for his attempts to regenerate the old coalmining communities and for his youth work. Most trade unionists and management colleagues saw not only as a hard-headed manager, but as a warm and generous person.

It was during a medical examination towards the end of his career at the coal board that the leukaemia was diagnosed which led to his death.

BARRIE CLEMENT

Kevan Hunt, industrial relations manager: born Seaham Harbour, Co Durham 13 October 1937; HQ Industrial Relations Director, National Coal Board (renamed British Coal 1987) 1982-84, IR Deputy Director-General 1984-85, Head of IR 1985-88, Executive Director 1988-91; chairman, British Coal Enterprise 1993-96; MVO 1998; married 1958 Valerie Scattergood (two sons); died Derby 17 March 1999.



MEDICAL NOTES

ROBERT & MICHELE ROOT-BERNSTEIN

'A bleeding in spring is physik for a King'

READ MOST medical histories and you read that the practice of bleeding patients, a mainstay of traditional medicine for centuries, was one of the most barbaric treatments ever conceived.

Whether the doctor pierced a vein, cut the skin or applied a blood-sucking leech, his behaviour was patently absurd. So, too, was the patient's ingestion of urine, usually dismissed by historians as a form of Drekapotheke - the misguided, wrongful use of disgusting substances as medicines. In both cases, however, this conventional history has it wrong. Far from irrational, these treatments met real medical needs in the past - and still do so in many

advanced clinics today. Phlebotomy was once so common that medical practitioners were known as "leeches" and the lancet became synonymous with the profession. Unfortunately, physicians in the past overused their tools, sometimes causing death by repetitive or massive bleedings and employing the remudy indiscriminately for any and all ailments. It is difficult for us to see any real benefits to the practice when such abuses are so glaringly obvious. Yet benefits there were, most

notably the lowering of fever. The Canadian physiologist Norman Kasting has shown that removing a pint of blood releases hormones that normalise body temperature. Significant bleeding also activates the immune system and depletes the body

of iron, required by many bacteria for optimal growth. Since fever reduction was one of the most common of historical uses for bleeding, it is quite likely that many people actually did benefit from the procedure.

Many certainly do today.

Regular phlebotomy is the preferred medical treatment for inherited and acquired blood diseases such as haemochromotosis, polycythema vera and porphyria cutanea tarda in which there is overproduction of red blood cells or a pathological retention of iron. Surprisingly, health ben-efits from bleeding may accrue to blood donors, too. Medieval Britons had a saying. "A bleeding in the spring is ohysik for a King." Regular blood donors do, indeed, have a longer life expectancy than the general popula-tion. Don't discount leeches, either. Microsurgeons use them to suck blood when all else fails to restore circulation to reattached digits, limbs, scalps, or transplants. Leech saliva is the original source for hirudin, a widely

and more leech-derived drugs are in the works. Like bleeding, the ingestion of human and animal urines was once a common medical remedy used to treat everything from menstrual irregularities and menopause symptoms to giddiness and sleeplessness - by the looks of it, another useless panacea.

Yet, once again, the ancient

uses have been validated by

used "blood thinner" for heart

attack and stroke patients,

modern research and practice. Urine can contain high levels of hormones such as melatonin, used currently to facilitate relaxation and sleep, and oestrogen, the primary component of menopausal drugs like Premarin™, whose name is a contraction of the "pregnant mare's urine"

from which it is distilled. Urine contains other medicinal substances as well. People from time immemorial have washed wounds and burns in fresh urine. As long as the urine came from a healthy individual it was sterile and contained besides large amounts of urea, an antiseptic we still use in wound preparations today. Urine also dissolved scabs, an ageold observation that recently led scientists to discover the enzyme urokinase, now a clot-busting drug for heart attack and stroke patients. Even the folk tradition of rubbing urine on the body to improve the complexion or relieve chapped skin has its counterpart in modern practice. Urea is a common ingredient of skin moisturisers and lotions.

Such histories have their moral. Even the most absurd or disturbing of past medical practices may harbour a grain of medical wisdom. Understanding the practices of the past is the key to creating the treatments of the future.

Robert and Michele Root-Bernstein are the authors of Honey, Mud. Maggats and Other Medical Marnels'.

(Macmillan, £12.99)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

HOPKINS: On 7 April, to Clare and Tony, a daughter Grace, a sister for David and John.

DEATHS

HOWARD: Dame Rosemary
Christian, DBE, peacefully on 22
April, aged 82. in York District
Hospital. Private Requiem at
10am to be followed at 12 noon
by the Funeral Service for family
and only close friends, on Thursday 29 April in the Chapel at
Castle Howard. Family and
estate flowers only. Donations in
lieu to either the United Society
for the Propagation of the Gospel, neu to either the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, or Church Missionary Society at Parnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at a later date in York Minster.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Duke of York today attends the Finals of the National Under 12s Rugby Festival at Twickenham. The Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief, the Princess Royal, Colone in Chief, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th Foot), today attends a regimental dinner at Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks, Becston, Nottingham. The Prince of Wales tomorrow attends a Chief Cheston of the 200th anniversity of the 200th anniversity. Sikh celebration of the 300th anniver-sary of the founding of the Khalsa at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mount-ed Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. Harr: Ist Bat-talion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards. TOMORROW: The Household Cavarry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. 10am: 1st Battalion Codstream Guards nounts the Queen's Guard, at Backing-ham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenndier Guards.

General, Conservative Party, 50; The Earl of Lichfield, photog-BIRTHDAYS rapher, 60; Sir Michael TODAY: Mr Ralph Brown, Llewellyn Smith, ambassador sculptor, 71; Field Marshal to Greece, 60; Mr Ian McCart-ney MP, Minister of State for Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 84; Mr John Competitiveness, 48: Mr David Ernest Collins, former chair-Machin, Under Treasurer, Gray's Inn, 65; Lady Marre, for-mer chairman, BBC and IBA man. Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group, 76; Lord Coulsfield, Senator of the Col-Central Appeals Advisory Committee, 79: Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Godfrey Miltonege of Justice in Scotland, 65; Sir Peter Cresswell, High Court judge, 55; Mr Brian Don-Thompson, 69; Mr Buster nelly, ambassador to Mottram, tennis player, 44: Yugoslavia, 54; Sir Clement Miss Marian Norrie, circuit Freud. writer and former MP, judge, 59: Mr John Owen, for-75; Dame Helen Gardiner, former Governor of the Cayman mer Chief Clerk. Private Secre-Islands, 60; Mr Al Pacino, actor, tary's Office. Buckingham 59; Miss Helen Paling, circuit judge, 66; Mr William Roache, Palace, 98: M Jean-Paul Gaultier, fashion designer, 47: Mr Fred Heddell, chief executor, 67; Mr Adrian Sanders MP, 40; Mr David Shepherd, artist, 68; Lord Skidelsky, Protive, Mencap, 54; Rear-Admiral Sir Joseph Henley, 90; Mr Neil lessor of Political Economy, Warwick University, 60; Mr Paul Stinchcombe MP, 37; menistan, 54: Mr Richard Jarun, arts con Dame Veronica Sutherland, former ambassador to the former general director, Scot-tish Opera, 50; Mr Robert Republic of Ireland, 60: Mr McCartney MP, 63; Mr Björn Ulvaeus, singer, 54. Andrew MacKinlay MP, 50; Miss Shirley Maclaine, actress, 65; Ms Margaret Moran MP, 44; Mr James Paice MP, 50; Sir Hugh Park, former High Court judge, 89; Mr Stuart Pearce, footballer, TODAY 37; Miss Bridget Riley, painter

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: William the Silent, Prince of Orange, 1533; Edmund Cartwright, inventor of the power loom, 1743; Anthony Trollope, writer and inventor of the pillar box. 1815; Henri-Philippe Pétain, soldier and French leader, 1856; Arthur Christopher Benson, scholar and writer. 1862; Sir Richard Stafford Cripps, lawyer, diplomat and statesman, 1889; William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"), collaborator with the Nazis, 1906.

Deaths: Daniel Defoe, writer, 1731; Willa Cather, novelist, 1947; Bill (William John) Edrich, cricketer, 1986; The Duchess of Windsor (Wallis Warfield), 1986.

On this day: Mary, Queen of Scots, aged 16, married the Dauphin of France, 1558; the seillaise" were composed by Rouget de Lisle, 1792; the Library of Congress was estab-lished, 1800; the Garrick Theatre, London, opened, 1889;

Joshua Slocum set sail from Boston, Massachusetts, US, on the first solo round the world voyage, 1895; Spain declared war on the United States, 1898; the first issue of the Daily Express appeared, 1900; the land known as the Easter Rising occurred, Easter Monday 1916; in the German general election. Nazis won many seats in large cities, 1932; the first performance of the musical Man of La Mancha was presented, London 1968: the Gambia was

Today is the Feast Day of St Egbert, St Fidelis of Sigmarin gen. St Ives or Ivo. St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, St Mellitus of Canterbury and St William

TOMORROW

France, 1214; King Edward II. 1284; Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, 1599; Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, engineer and inventor, 1769; John Keble. Anglican priest and Movement, 1792: Charles Burgess Fry, cricketer and writer, 1872; Walter de la Mare, poet and novelist, 1873; Guglielmo Marconi. radio pioneer, 1874; Edward (Egbert) Roscoe Murrow broadcaster and journalist, 1908; Ella Fitzgerald, singer, 1917.

Alberti, architect, sculptor, writer and musician, 1472; Margaret of Anjou, Queen, wife of Henry VI. 1482; Torquato Tasso, poet, 1595; David Teniers the Younger, painter, 1690; Anders Celsius, inventor of the centigrade thermometer, 1744; William Cowper, poet, 1800; Gertie Millar (Countess of Dudley). musical comedy actress, 1952 Joseph Hergesheimer, novelist 1954; Sir Carol Reed, film director, 1976; Dame Celia Johnson, actress, 1982: Ginger Rogers actress and dancer, 1995.

Deaths: Leon Battista degli

On this day: the Dutch defeated the Spanish in the Bay of Gibraltar, 1607; a Convention

ni's opera Turandot was first performed, Milan 1926; the BBC radio serial The Dales ended after 21 years and over 5,400 episodes, 1969; in Portugal, a military junta deposed the government, president and prime minister, 1974; the West German embassy in Stockholm was blown up by terrorists and two people shot, 1975; Portugal held its first free elections for 50

Parliament met and voted for

the restoration of Charles II.

tion of the Suez Canal began,

1859: the US declared war on

Spain, 1898; British, French,

Australian and New Zealand forces landed at the Gallipoli

peninsula, Turkey, 1915; Pucci-

erected in Paris, 1792; construc-

1660: the guillotine was first.

Mark the Evangelist.

LECTURES

TODAY National Gallery: James Heard, "Feasts (iv): Kalf, Still Life with the Drinking-Horn of Saint Sebastian Archers Guild", 12pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Charlotte Horlyck, "Korean Funeral Art", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Angela Cox. "Cromwell Quater centenary: the Victorians, Oliver Cromwell and the Civil

TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Every Maid Her Own Master", 2.30pm National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Remark These Ruffnesses: Oliver Cromwell in portraiture, 1646-58", 3pm.

Wars", 3pm.

DINNERS

Royal Society of St George The City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George held its annual St George's Day Banquet yesterday at Guildhall, London EC2. Mr Michael Chism presided.

the Feast Day of St Anianus of Alexandria, St Heribald and St I don't want to be brave. just ordinary, thanks

WHY DO the able-bodied so often describe the disabled as brave? I pondered that question this week as Trevor Mc-Donald presented the "and finally" on the early-evening ITN news.

The person whom Trevor introduced as brave was Zoe Koplowitz, a 50-year-old New Yorker who had completed the London Marathon. Zoe had multiple sclerosis and finished the 26-mile course aided by two purple crutches and a clutch of escorts from the Yeomanry Artillery Regiment. She crossed the ribbon 30 hours and 10 minutes after she started the race, making her average speed approximately 0.87 miles per hour.

It was a great story. It showed Zoe was witty, persistent, determined and skilled in the fine art of pacing herself. But was she brave? I'm not so sure. The word "brave" tends to be a knee-jerk epithet for people with incurable diseases. It gets attached to those living with cancer or multiple sclerosis as surely as "braless" gets stuck to Charlie Dimmock. Cardinal Basil Hume announces he has cancer, and out comes the headline: "The courage of Cardinal Hume," It's as though we are brave by virtue of being ill. But can you be "brave" when

you have no choice? It's brave when a teacher is confronted by an armed killer and gets shot because he has been standing so he can tell his students to take cover. That's brave, because he could have behaved otherwise. But, if you have cancer or multiple scierosis, then there is no alternative to getting on with life. Most of us would rather be ablebodied cowards. The only reason we aren't is because we can't be. Calling us "brave" reduces the meaning of the word.

It could be argued, however, that we call Zoe and Basil "brave" not simply because they have MS and cancer respectively, but because they aren't giving in to their diseases. Ms Koplowitz is completing marathons and Cardinal Hume is getting on with business as usual. They aren't letting their

That brings me to the second problem I have with "brave". All too often the reason why the disabled are admired is because they are behaving as similarly to the able-bodied as possible. Would Trevor Mc-Donald have been as impressed with Ms Koplowitz if she had said, "It was my lifelong ambition to run a marathon, but when I got MS my priorities changed. I'd rather grow roses now"? Would the headline writers have been as admiring of Cardinal Hume if he had said: "It had been my intention to fulfil the Pope's wishes by lead-

> **FAITH** & REASON

ing the Church into the next

JO IND

The attitude of the able-bodied to people with terminal illness reveals our society's deep-rooted tendency to value people for what they do, rather than who they are

Millennium but now my circumstances are different. I want to retire so I can grieve. pray and be with my brothers at Ampleforth?"

Of course if Ms Koplowitz experiences marathons as a way of taking control of her life again, then she should do them. And if Cardinal Hume feels called to carry on working for as long as possible, then we should respect that choice and support him in it. But we must guard against the tendency to admire people struck by disease for seeming to behave

In the Gospel of Luke there is a story about two sisters called Martha and Mary. When Jesus went to their house got fed up with this and asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her. "Martha, Martha," said Jesus. "You worry and fret about

around listening to him. Martha

so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part." This is another great story and one which works at a corporate as well as an individual level. As a society we consistently choose Martha's way over Mary's. We value "doing", "achieving" and "being productive" over sitting down and taking it all in. We like people to keep busy and keep smiling.

When we value rushing around over staying still and getting thing done over paying attention we are effectively valuing the able-bodied over the disabled. One challenge of the Gospel story is to hear how it is possible for the "ill" to remind the "healthy" that there is a better way. Whenever we are overly impressed by the activities of the sick, we are colluding with the lie that being up-and-about and busy is what

matters most. I'm not saying that this is what Ms Koplowitz and Cardinal Hume are doing. I am saying we must ask ourselves why we think it "braver" to respond to illness by working and doing a marathon than by spending time with friends and thanking God for food, love and

a showery April day. My third reason for questioning the haste with which people living with incurable diseases are described as 'brave", is that it sets us apart. If I'm called "brave" it feels as though I'm looking over my shoulder and seeing everyone else running in the opposite direction. I experience "brave" as being told: "You're on your

own, mate." When we describe people as "brave" we are seeing them as different from us. When we describe them as an "inspiration" we recognise that we are just as though they're healthy. on the same journey; the only difference being that they are one step ahead.

Jo Ind is the author of Fat is Martha was busy doing the a Spiritual Issue'. She has food while Mary was sitting multiple sclerosis

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

68; Miss Barbra Streisa

actress and singer, 57; Lt-Col Stuart Townend, founder, Hill

House School 90: Mr Frank

61; Mr John Williams, gui-tarist, 58; Miss Paula Yates,

television presenter, 39.

Wheeler, ambassador to Chile,

TOMORROW: Professor Bob

Chancellor, Umist, 59; Mr Eric Bristow, darts champion, 42;

Mr Anthony Christopher, for-

mer trade union leader. 74: Mr

Johann Cruyff, football manag-

er, 52; Mr David de Peyer, for-

mer director-general, Cancer Research Campaign, 65; Dr Thomas Faber, chairman,

Graham-Smith, former Astronomer Royal, 76; Lord

Hayter, former chairman,

Chubb & Son, 88: Mr Alan

Judge, former Director-

Geoffrey Faber, 72; Sir Francis

Hoole, consultant on UK Over-

seas Territories, 57; Sir Paul

Boucher, Principal and Vice-

AS I explained yesterday, despite losing his last-round ame by default, the Kent international master Danny Gormally's 5/9 at the recent Hampstead International was enough to propel him into the lead in the Onyx Grand Prix.

But after a reign tiny even by Lady Jane Grey's standards of just three days, he was over-taken by Keith Arkell who put behind him the disappointment of his 3.5-2.5 defeat in Hampstead in the challenge match with Mark Hebden, with a savage 5/5 at Rhyl last weekend.

This left Arkell on 175.5/200 well clear of Gormally 164.9, Lalic 160, Simon Williams 157, Andrew Ledger 139.4, Crouch 138.2. Plaskett 136.7 and Hebden - last year's winner currently on just 125.5.

There were 130 competitors in all at Rhyl including, I'm informed, a honeymoon couple who had got married the day before in Greina Green. The three sections consisted of an Open, Major and what the organiser, a local GP, Dr Hugh Jones, prefers to call not as is usual the Minor, but by the less

psychologically undermining 'Goodnight tournament".

Arkell is already entitled to play in the British Championship; it was the runner-up R.A. Barton from Morecambe on 4 who qualified for this year's tournament, as ever in the first fortnight in August, and this time in Scarborough. Arkell's best game was prob-

ably this one in the first round against the joint British under-18 champion, eldest of a family of four talented juniors from Bath.

When Buckley played 2 Qe2 rather than the usual 2 d4, Arkell decided on the unusual "Hippopotamus", named after the supposed resemblance between the structure, with the two fianchettoed bishops, centre pawns on e6 and d6 and the two knights behind them, and a hippo in a river. This highly provocative 10 a4 Bb7

opening is difficult to meet

since White must strike a bal-

ance between the desire to

punish his opponent's effron-

tery and overpressing. Buckley

played perfectly reasonably

11 Nbd2 looks better, since after Black recaptured with the queen on a8 there was already strong pressure on e4.

If 15 Qxb5 Ba6 nets the exchange while 20 e6 Re8 21 exf7+ Kxf7 is also better for Black. Arkell got powerful queenside pressure and after 26 ...Be4! the advantage was considerable. At the end if 35 cxd5 Rxa4 36 Rxd3 Ra1 + wins the knight.

White: David Buckley Black: Keith Arkell "Hippopotamus"

18 Ng5 h6 2 Qe2 d6 19 Nf3 Qa4 3 d4 Nd7 20 Bd2 Qb3 4 g3 Ne7 21 Rb1 Ra8 5 Bg2 g6 22 exd6 exd6 6 f4 Bg7 23 Qd1 Qxd1+ 7 Nt3 0-0 24 Rxd1 Ra2 8 0-0 a6 25 Bc1 Nb6 9 c3 b5 26 Ne1 Be4! 27 Bft Nc4 11 axb5 axb5 28 b3 Na3 12 Rxa8 Qxa8 29 Bxa3 Rxa3 13 Nh4 Nf6 30 Bxb5 Rxb3 14 e5 Nfd5 31 c4 d5 15 Nd2 Rd8 32 Ng2 Bd3 16 Ne4 Nf5 33 Bal Bxd1+ but I don't like 11 axb5?! - eg 17 Nxf5 exf5

WEST'S DEFENCE here was a

curious mixture - though his opening lead was on target. After two passes East opened One Diamond and

South overcalled with One Heart. West passed, North raised to Two Hearts, and South jumped directly to game. Well, you or I would have led a diamond against Four Hearts ("Partner's suit! What else?") but now the play is easy for declarer. Whatever East returns at trick 2, it is straightforward to ruff two clubs in dummy, with a diamond ruff available for a quick re-entry to hand. No. from somewhere or another. West found a trump lead.

Now declarer had problems. It was easy enough to win, cash the top clubs and take one ruff on the table, but now, when declarer led a low diamond from the table. East won with his jack and returned a second trump. South won in hand and drew the last trump, discarding a diamond from dummy, and led a low spade. West played low; declarer put in the seven. East got it right when he un-

queen, instead of the nine, and returned the nine. When declarer played low, so did West; the nine was allowed to hold. Now it was all over - the spades broke 3-3; South's losing club

critical. First, when South started the suit by leading low from hand. West could have played his jack. If left on lead, he can cash his jack of clubs; if dummy wins with the ace, there is no entry for declarer to reach the long spade. Well, that was difficult. but later on, when East returned the nine of spades. West could again have played

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

Love all; dealer West North • A 8 7 3 • O 9 2 · K 7 6 4	
	♦ 85
West	East
# 342	◆ K Q 9
TS76	753
240.5.2	7AQ183
♣ ∫ (u 7 4	♦ 091
	South
	◆ 1065
l	♥A K J 10 4
	49
	◆ A K 6 3

went away on the long spade. What could West have done? The play in the spade suit was

34 Kh1 Ra3 0-1 blocked by winning with his his jack with the same effect. | illnesses get in their way.

All the way to the bank

Twenty years ago the Comedy Store opened in London, bringing American-style alternative stand-up to the UK for the first time. Today, what was once edgy, angry and subversive has become big business. By John Crace

lexei Sayle and Sandi Toksvig you will have heard of. But what about Nina Finburgh, Bill Beckett, Ed Shirman, Bob

Flag. Brian Beck and Jon Jon Keefe? These were just a few of the wannabe comedians who replied to adverts in Punch, The Stage and the Evening Standard, got paid nothing and were present at the birth of alternative comedy as part of the first-night line-up of the Comedy Store on 19 May 1979.

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Before the Comedy Store opened its doors above a Soho strip club. stand-up comedy in this country was middle-aged, middle-class and Little England in mentality. "The scene was dominated by the likes of Jimmy Tarbuck and Lenny Bennett," says Don Ward, the Comedy Store's founder. "I wanted to create a club that was based on the US stand-up circuit, which would have relevance to young people." So out went the mother-in-law and racist jokes and in came a new political agenda, fuelled by resentment of the Thatcher regime.

In hindsight, its success seems inevitable. The only real surprise is that no one had thought of it earlier. But at the time Larry Adler wrote off the Comedy Store as just "an undisciplined load of rubbish that would never catch on", and an early billing including Rik Mayall, Ade Edmondson, Nigel Planer and French and Saunders pulled in only

Don Ward admits that it was all a bit chaotic at the start. "French and Saunders died on their arse week after week, but they kept coming back for their £15," he says. But after a while some comedians got better, some got well-known, and some got both. Within five years rival clubs such as the Banana in Balham and Jongleurs in Battersea sprang up, and the ever quick-offthe-mark TV producers thought money could be made, "even if the stand-ups did use bad language".

And that was really that as far as



alternative comedy was concerned. Performers who had started out as little more than a dingy, smoky the last word in cutting edge room above a pub, but this is less became mainstream fodder for the late-night TV schedules, working hard to hone their acts for the midevening TV slots. The clubs still thrived, of course, because there were plenty of people who had got to enjoy live comedy as an alternative to the mind-blowing tedium of most rock gigs, but for most comedians, the clubs had become less of an end in themselves and more a potential launchpad to

TV and "loadsamoney". On any Saturday night in London today there are around 250 different comedy venues to choose almost double that. Some are still out of financial necessity and more out of the owners' belief that the public want to feel they are living a little bit recklessly. Make no mistake about it, comedy is an industry and for those in charge, an extremely lucrative one.

To be fair, some clubs have tried to retain the atmosphere of the early days. Despite having moved to a much plusher 400-seater theatre just off Leicester Square, Don Ward's Comedy Store has done its best not to dilute the brand. Comedy is what's on offer, and comedy is what you get. If you're very lucky between and in the UK as a whole, you may even get an impromptu

performance from the likes of Eddie Izzard or Bill Bailey, who just happen to be passing by Even so, Ward is weakening as the pound signs beckon and he's thinking of opening another couple of Cornedy Stores up north.

But he's got a long way to go before he matches Jongleurs, which was bought a few years ago by Regent Inns. It has now become the Asda of the comedy circuit, with branches in Camden, Bow. Leicester. Watford. Nottingham, Oxford and Southampton, and has a fulltime team of 10 at its centralised booking call-centre. "We take between 6,500 and 7,500 bookings per week," says Nigel Pitman, a Jon-

Nothing can compete with Avalon though, the company which represents some of the biggest names in the business, such as Frank Skinner, David Baddiel and Harry Hill, and has recently expanded into production and promotion. Don Ward calls Avalon "a bunch of strange, pontificating twats". which may strike a chord with anyone who has seen their staff parading at the Edinburgh Festival in identikit black shirts and

with a vigour bordering on zealotry. Not that Avalon care much what Ward - or anyone else - thinks. "We put on the biggest live comedy gig of all time when Newman and Badley Arena." says James Harring. I wonder where we went wrong."

from Avalon, proudly. "This prompted Janet Street-Porter to call comedy the new rock'n'roll." Avalon now runs The Comedy Network, which last year delivered over 500 nights of the Avalon experience into clubs and universities, and has been

picked up by Channel 5. It's hard to moan too much about the money. Posh Spice earns a for-tune on little talent, so why shouldn't a comedian with plenty more earn a decent wage? Nigel Pitman reckons that a good club standup can make £30,000 per year and that once you make it on to TV, the sky's the limit. And yet one can't help thinking that somewhere along the line, money has made comedy a little too safe and anodyne.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than on the corporate circuit, Businesses that would once have booked Paul Daniels for their annual night out now go for "yoof" appeal by booking stand-ups from the circuit. And stand-ups, who would once have sneered at an invitation from a company whose politics they despised, happily turn up because they can earn between three and 10 times as much for a set. Last Christmas, the corporate arm of Jongleurs took over £1m.

"Companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi and Morgan Grenfell have approached us to organise events." says John Davy, Jongleur's managing director. "We do everything from booking the acts to briefing the comedians on the folbles of selected members of the company." The comedians know the rules and are happy to abide by them.
"The client gets what he pays

for," says Bob Mills, the TV standup, candidly. "I was once asked, six minutes before I went on to mention a particular product in my act as it would give the sales force a boost. So I did." Isn't this all hideously un-PC for a right-on comedian? "Yeah," he admits with a laugh. "I often think back on conversations I had with Alexei Sayle 10 years ago about how comedy diel played to 12,000 at the Wemb- was going to change the world and

Tough going

DANCE THE PLACE THEATRE

MY GOODNESS, did Graeme Miller, "composer, director and installation artist", give us a hard time. The title of his piece. Country Dance, and his announced collaboration with the choreographer Matthew Hawkins, seemed to promise at least some dance content. But in fact this was minimal - ghostly fragments of folk dance culminating in a couple of brief sequences towards the end. Instead we got movement theatre with running, hysterics and speech. Fine, except that it is thin material stretched thin and the 100 minutes tick away at a snail's pace.

The banality of shouted phrases such as "arterial road" and "limited. waiting zone" may faithfully represent urban life, but it is ineffectual theatre. Game-like sections such as the line of people voicing customer complaints - the coffin is one foot too short", "these condoms are lemon-flavoured" - suggest they were created through group improvisations, à la Pina Bausch. But this is fourth-rate Bausch, unimaginative and long-winded.

Clearly the cast are city-dwellers: stressed, mobile-phone-toting, deafened by the roar of overhead aircraft. A man with a stethoscope attends to collapsing people. Later he comes to resemble an elephant, torso swaying, stethoscope dangling, since Miller's purpose is also to remind us of our primitive roots and the natural world. Scratch a lager lout, he seems to be saying, and you will find a tribal animal, which is all very true and potentially interesting and deserves a more articulate exposition.

Graeme Miller made me want to scream. And where was he? After a fleeting appearance at the start, he returns three-quarters of the way in carrying a briefcase. In it is a sheep's skull, but a noose would be more fitting. By financing this enterprise, the Place Theatre has given him a rope to hang himself.

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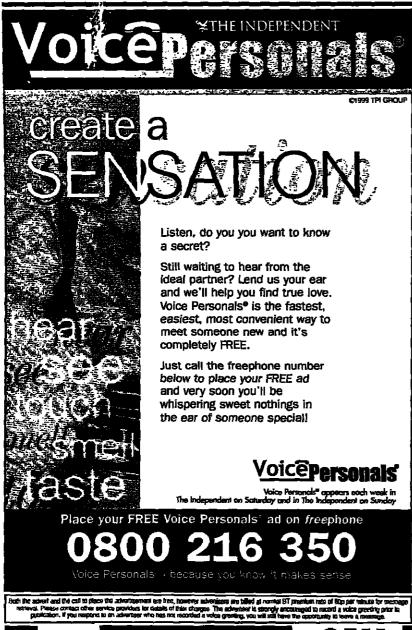
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LET'S HAVE FUN Attractive, triefligent, outgoing temale, 28, 5'4", enjoys sport, s

seeking

women



GORGEOUS & SUCCESSFUL GORGEOUS & SUCCESSFUL
Arty woman, (no resity), seeks professional man, 30-45, for some good laughs, CroydonLondon, 25:8387
NORTH WALES BASED
Me: sim, professional blonde, 39, enjoys ans, countryside, having fun, seeks your confident, active, intelligent, spontaneous male, 37-45. Call me, <u>116385</u> LIVE A LITTLE!

Charming, with, intelligent lemale, N/S, full of surprises with a zest for fits, seeks soul mate, 45-33, with same enthusiasm, felly addicts need not apply. N London/Hertland-shire or surpresent not apply. N London/Hertlord-shire or surrounding areas: \$76,782 DANCE OF OPTIMISM Come dance with me. I need a winess to my life. Attractive, unterligent, black female, seeks like-minded man, 40-60, any regionality, to talk to, laugh, share with and understand. London, \$75395 SEEKING SCORPIO Sim Dutch lady, 62 enous gardening.

SEEKING SCORPIO
Sim Dutch lady, 62, encys gardening
and life, is seeking a warm, caring
and successful gentleman, for a long-lasting relationship. 576:286
EUROPEAN CONNECTION
Attractive, slim, independent, protes-sional brunette, petite, frito the arts,
opera, classical music, travel, social science, seeking attractive, success-ful, genuine, sensible, professional mate, 45-50, for happy relationship. 276:276

al, very down-to-earth, is seeking a tall, dark male, N/S, to enjoy classica rusic, the great outdoors, and much,

ATTRACTIVE & CLASSY

Very attractive, slim lemeje, 49, 56°,
dark heir, intelligent, interesting,
entoys good food/were and male
company, is seeking a successful,
professional male, aged 47.56, who
a strong but genite. "TS-222

NEW POREST GRADUATE
Attractive, slim, blonde, artistic, 54°,
entoys arts, theatire, eating but, live
music, seeks fun-towing, easygoing,
intelligent, professional male, 36.45.
Could mayous callars please call Intelligent, prolessional male, 36-45.
Could previous callers please call
again, \$75933
GET IT TOGETHER
Outle extrover female, 37, 5'5'.
enjoys climate, asing out, travel and
lite in general, seeks tall male, 35-45.
NS, who is nice, honest and good
the for the relation and benefices.

has, and is time, romes and pool of the function intensising and happiness.

London, 27:5415

CHRISTIAN

Confident temals, 32, released, non-judgemental, socially aware, edicate intensis, enjoys the sismple piece.

merests, enjoys the sisraple plea-sures, people and conversation, is seeking triendstrp, with mental and emotional intensey. 275:225 LEICESTER AREA Attractive, professional Hindu female. 28, 58°, sensitive, caring, romantic, confident and strong-willed, with down-to-sertin personality, varied interests, is seeking a caring, reliable, emotionally means inclain Hindu male, aged 25-38, 510°-, for possi-ble commitment. 276291

Outer smile, sharp mind, gentle touch, sunny laughter Fernale, 40s. is seeking a real man, 45-60, for special mapir. London area, 25'6336 WARMTH & KUNDNESS WARMITH & KINDNESS
Sought and given by goddess, also
interested in walks, theatre, music an
and laughting in bed, Afterative, profes-sional, 42. London based, though dis-lance not important, 26:5341
UNIFULFILLED ROMANTIC

UNFULFILLED KOMAN ICC
Petite, green-eyed, sensitive artist,
loves country-side, gardering and all
things living, looking for passionate
triendship, seeks true soul male. 40s.
with similar interests, to share,
explore and enjoy Oron. 25 6411
WANTED
Professional independent horate. 43 WANTED
Professional, independent lemale, 43, Intelligent, humorous, auggong, seeks sensitive, thoughtut, adventurus maje. West Midands, 256244
SMIPLY THE BEST

male. West Michands. 27524

SMPLY THE BEST
Altractive, bright, vivacious lemale, 47.
seeks good-looking, solvent, easygoing male, for fur, trendship and
socialishg, South Yorks area. 256417
ATTRACTIVE, FEIST POCTOR
Divorced single mum, 44. interested
in current attains, travel, outdoor pursuits, seeks hymnous, intelligent
male, N/S, for inendiship, possibily
more. Gloucasjershire area. 275397
SUCCESSFUL SINGLE
II you're an unanached mele, 30s.
attractive, creative and intelligent, into
music, dutos, conversation, travel,
theatre, then I would like to hear from
you, 255778

SOMERSET FEMALE
Dark-haued, dark-eyed lemale, 31,
seeks chartsmatic, solvent, simmish,
bright male, who doesn't turnd lying
about how we met, \$25942

sees transmant, solven, symmen, hight male, who doesn't mind lying about how we met. \$25942
LEEDS BASED
Professional female 28, likes travel, photography, lood, write, beer, flowing convertionant, boding for male with GSCH, who loves life. \$25423
NEW YOYAGE
Altractive, start woman, ex-nursing sister, enjoys country life, sailing, music, seeking interesting, active, unpreferritous, emotionally available, professional male, 50-60, ideally in the East of England, \$25340, and \$2540, UN-LOVING EX-MODEL

Creative, slim female, is seeking a fit male, aged 30-40, for romance. Scotland, 17:6266 SEEKS SOUL MATE sterns SOUL MATE Attractive, Iwely, Iun, Intelligent, low-ing lemale, with many interests, seeks similar man, tate 30s-early 40s, for companionstrp, laughs, and loving, long-term relationship. 279098

TRACES

IN SEARCH OF DOBDIN

Petite, vivoscous, atmotive single
mother, early 40s, but girl at heart,
well-educated/reachtravelled, with an
inspection energy and optimism,
seeking an honourable gentleman,
40-55, to share the usual cultural
activities and sums in the country ectivities and journs in the country London, 1576272 LUST FOR LIFE Attractive, arispic, outgoing, hin-foving, professional lady, stim, blonde, interessed in the aris, good food and whe, dercing, holidays, seeking attractive, sensitive, kind, intelligent, well-educated, professional man, 45-55, to share unlargered, become 75-59.

vrierests. London, 276289

Pente, divorced, professional remaie, 54, smoker, with dog and cal, varied interests including music. Are you genuine too? As well as personal almash, boking to keep company? Surrey, 176416



BLACK & GENTLE

BLACK & GENTLE
Black Relative graduate, N/S,
GSOH, lowes the ans. travel and
good food, seeks postowe, professtoral woman, 28-38, race and colour
unimponant, with or without chicken,
for possible relationship. 2762/7
CULTURED BLACK MALE
Abbuilds contections and carring

Arbiculate, conscious and caring male, 54, is seeking a female parmer who has similar attributes, 125/162 SOUL MATE SEARCH Tall, aftractive, hard-working male, 25, into artifues and groperty renovation, seeking intelligent temple.

25, into artifiques and property reno-vation, seeking intelligent ternals company, to frends thing and relation-strp, 256275.

TAKEN FOR A RIDE?

Merceles treatiser and driver, seeks lady passenge/rico-thiver, under 60, N.S. Driver, 516; unattached, really quite nice, wide interests, For friend-shop, perhaps more, Cambridge area, 25638.

WHITE LIES Tall, fit red-framed man, 27, enjoys outdoors, nature, travel, food, music, seeks stimilar ternals, age unimpor-lant, to starre the good fitnings with. SW England, 125636.

SW England, 176396
IT'S IN THE STARS
Two caring, chansmatic, cancerian
males, 34/30, 51076, blue and
green eyes, brown hair and reasonalia hardstrane enter under channels

ably hardsome, enjoy pubs, cinema theatre, good food, are seeking two mailigent, ettractive, sophisticated ladies under 30 125271 BATH MALE

BATH MALE

Quelt male, 41, N/S, own flet, slightly
disabled, into onema, awation, meals
out, computing, seeking lady, up to
45, for frendeship, evenlings out and
maybe more, \$25270

CELTIC LADY SOUGHT
M64-303, good body, to be wined and
dired, by handsome host, 672.

TSC421

SURNY OUTLOOK

Teacher, 47, 510°, Iriendly, easygo-ing nature, finds interest in many aspects of life, would like to share iriendship with an attractive, intelli-

UNINY OUTLOOK

gent woman. 276179

Pling me now I'm alone in London and seeking a plain Jame, 30s, wall soulpred, to love and care for 256164 MATE FOR LIFE
Asan male, 43, seeks smart, kind, educated, understanding, good-looking termale, any religion/caste, for reliable, frustworthy relationship, 176389
MEDITERRANEAN MALE
Attractive male, 33, foving, carring, with varied interests, which includes, travel, music, seeks sincere, attractive termale, 20-45, for long-term relationship, 176424

ive female, 20 45, for long-term rela-bonship, 286424
MILL OF BEANS
Young-looking student counsellor aged 34, 673, easygoing, caring, thoughtful and humorous, emjoys films, ealing out and relaxing with himids, is seeking an independent, caring female, to enjoy life with. Newcaste area, 25/287
TALLAFRICAN-AMERICAN Male, 31, likes music, sport, mavel, seeks independent lady, over 25, to share turn times, maybe more. 25/26/283

and seeving a point usine, 34s, was soutified, to love and care for 25164

SOUL MATE SEARCH
Attractive architect, 30s, 57, teah, green-thice, simmish, N/S, outgoing, spontameous, nomanic, loves spont, cycling, walks, arts, exhibitions, ravel and socialising, seeks creative female, on similar wavelength, lor possible senious relationship. Twickenham or nearby, 256422

HANDSOME DEVIL.

Sim. professional Asian male, 34, emoys arts, chema, masic, digs, seeks creative findship plus. London area. 256217

FREE TICKETS!

Tall, caring male, young 40, classical music journalist, seeks lively, intelligent grid. 20s. for compers, open, romance, 256218

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Tall, dark, good-looking male, 38, GSOH, empys music, going out, clubbing, travel, seeks liun-toving, optimistic and attractive female. 29 but female, neasygoing male, 39 but female, in fun, incrediship and romance. Yorkshire or N England.

256342

RED HAIR, BLUE EYES

Young, fit male, 20s, seeks tatooed woman. to him and triendship.

MARGINALLY ECCENTRIC

hairy, hock-nosed, beampole, with attitude, seeks ravishing, indepen-dent, creative goddess, to share a bit of life, Solvent, single, sane, Sussex.

OPTIMISTIC PROFESSIONAL...

45, 6°, sim. happy, positive outbook, but life has come unravelled, seeking someone to be a part of pulping it back together. N Essert. Suffolir. All calls answered. 226413

VERY URGENT...

OPTIMISTIC PROFESSIONAL...

RED HAIR, BLUE EYES
Young, it male, 20s, seeks tationed
woman, for hun and triendship.
Genuine replies only please. 176335
ON OFFER
Tall, strateney Englishman, seeks
sensitive, uncomplicated, educated, black plrifiters), for 1-2-1 relationship.
276104
SENSITIVE

SENSTIVE
Male, 577, dari/brown, sâm build,
Japanese naturnal, IT engineer, likes
pubs, bars, clubs, good converteation,
lims, music, playing gulfar, seeks
sensitive, camp, midpendart,
lamale, similar age, London, 17:6340
CAMBRIDGE ACADENIC...
39, with much to learn, seeks and CAMBRIDGE ACADENIC...

...39. with much to learn, seeks soul mate, to share passion for theatre, music, travel and adventure. The TOS FOREVER OPTIMISTIC Male, 51, with love of life, likes arts. cinema, theatre, travel, good food, is seeking a facty, for relationship and who knows what? The 215

CEREBRAL MALE...

45, seeking a booksh soul mate, with passion, who is into bravel, five music and good wine. London area. 276161

DOWN-TO-BARTH PRINCE Intelligent male, late 30s, assygoing, GSOH, enloys staying in, going out, cooking, music, chemia, the sare, seeks female, for possible relationship. 255222

STILL SEEKING. STILL SEERING...
...that elsable, music-loving, interesting, kindred spirit. Graduate gentleman. 57, seeks lady, under 58, to
share fite's many pleasures, in a
long-term relationship. Bristol.
276280 Pretenticus, opinionated male, 43, beanpole, with attitude, seeks ravish-ing, independent, creative goddess, to share a bit of life with. Solvent, sin-gle, same, Sussex, \$15223 FRANCOPHILE

PRANCOPTILE.

Proceed, aquarian male teacher, young 55, more rich than wealthy, enjoys good conversation, authoritichess, gardening, wine, travel, see blonde, slim lady, 30+. NE or anywhere. 356257

BRIGHTONI ONDON

Male, with hearest in photography.

BHISH TONDUNION
Male, with Interest in photography,
counselling, cultural studies, foreign
travels, aware of sexual politics, sen-sitive but not submissive, tell, sim
and fit, seeks new female triand.

and ff, seeks new fernale thand.

196408

DESPERATE

Emotionally distanted by previous
relationships. Male, 50s, believes in
excertes, into reading, sport, cycling,
is seeking a libran, aquarian or gemiitemate, arry age, for friendship first,
then who knows? 198285

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Commodition male 41 5 slim to

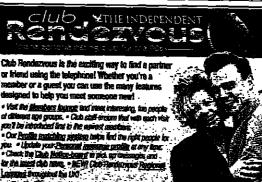
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COSMOPOLITIES I MARKET THE AT 1, 5, silm, fit, fites intellectual challenges and leaghter, is seeking a very sirm, attractive partner, aged 28-35, who's discerning and ready for adventurous haure. South West. 276279



LONDON AREA
Black male, 26, 5'3", 13 stone medium build, with goatlee, fur-toving, interesting job, (over srawd, socialising, meals out, chema, seeks easy-going, fun, intelligent white male, 28-30, possibly over 5'8", GSCH, to generally enjoy life, 26'6337



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Whatever happened to Okri, Isherwood, Durrell and Shields? Peter Parker counts the bodies not in the Library

Old masters and dry Martinis

ccording to the subtitle of their book, Carmen Callil and Colm Tóibin have selected "The 200 best novels **∟**in English since 1950". This is the sort of project that always causes arguments since, as almost any poll of best books will quickly show, one person's top 200 is another's slush-pile. Having once edited a similar book, which attempted to take on the whole 20th century, I started reading this one with some sympathy.

I know all about the sheer volume of fiction from which selections must be made, the difficult choices, the inclusions and omissions that readers and reviewers pounce upon. Callil and Toibin assure us that their collaboration has been reasonably harmonious. "We chose these books together on the basis that the idea of two people disputing - hotly at times, not at all on other occasions



The Modern Library by Carmen Callil and Colm Toibín Picador, £12.99, 240pp

 is always preferable to one person laying down the law," they tell us. In only two cases were their differences left unresolved, when each editor fought for different novels to represent Saul Bellow and V S Naipaul. These two writers get two entries each; in every other instance authors are represented by a single work.

The Modern Library was embargoed and reviewers' copies arrived in jiffy-bags labelled: "Confidential. To be opened by addressee only". Not unnaturally, though as it turns out quite unreasonably, this raised expectations that the book would be highly controversial. Attitudes are struck in the introduction, where the editors (one Australian, the other Irish) state they both come from what they are pleased to call "the Free World" (incorrectly defined as not England or America). They also claim to have "not the slightest interest in political correctness", but neither circumstance seems to have impinged upon their choices or their comments. They have put Jane Gardam, Georgina Hammick, for a place in a book which promises the length of a publisher's blurb on together a disappointingly dull and

inoffensive little book. "Any list such as this is entirely personal," Callil and Tóibín acknowledge. This is undoubtedly true, so it was perhaps unwise of them to give so slender a volume so authoritative a title as The Modern Library. Any modern library that does not include work by the following authors cannot help looking a little depleted: Paul Theroux, Barry Unsworth,







Missing, presumed not wanted: clockwise from top left: Carol Shields, William Boyd, Joyce Carol Oates, Ben Okri, Hilary Mantel and Vikram Seth don't make it into the latest attempt to define the modern library

Peter Ackroyd, Paul Auster, Paul Bailey, Nicholson Baker, John Barth. Donald Barthelme, William Boyd. Lawrence Durrell, John Fowles, Han Suyin, Susan Hill, Christopher to unearth "hidden treasures". Hope, John Irving, Christopher Isherwood, Dan Jacobson, Ken Kesey, Hanif Kureishi, Laurie Lee, Penelooe Lively, Alison Lurie, Rose Macaulay, Shena Mackay, Hilary Mantel, Candia McWilliam, Nicholas Mosley. Joyce Carol Oates, Flann O'Brien. Ben Okri, Barbara Pym, Bernice Rubens, Vikram Seth, Carol Shields,

Gore Vidal and Angus Wilson.

This is to list only the most obvious omissions. An equally long roll-Malcolm Bradbury, Brigid Brophy, call could be made of writers who may Truman Capote, William Cooper, not be in the mainstream of Englishlanguage fiction but might have hoped

may be unfamiliar. Sam Hanna Bell, derson, Balraj Khanna, Kaye Gib-Eugene McCabe. In any case, we need to judge the book less by who's graphical context.

in and who's out than by what we learn about those novels the editors see fit to endorse.

Each entry runs to around 250 words, with a supplementary couple of lines about the writer. This is about the dust-jacket of the average novel, omissions, and the editors deserve aspire much beyond that level of recour gratitude for drawing attention ommendation. The book is deterto a number of writers whose work minedly-indeed, sometimes noisily - anti-academic, and while this pop-Margaret Laurence, Jessica An- ulist thrust is generally welcome, it would have been helpful if more of bons, Bapsi Sidhwa, Norman Rush, the novels discussed had been put into some sort of historical or bio-

On the whole the editors are content to give us a few lines of plot followed by a burst of uninformative enthusiasm. "This is a most sympathetic novel, full of ideas, endearing, full of gusto," they write of Peter Carey's Oscar and Lucinda. Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove is "the sort of book that you would stay up all night to finish"; East of Eden is "hugely credible, readable and vivid"; Catch-22 "is a dark and disturbing anti-war book as well as

a great comic novel Some comments are absurdly inappropriate: it is neither useful for the reader nor flattering to Muriel Spark to be told that The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is "laced with mother's wit and wisdom". Other judgements are nonsensical: On the Road "has all the importance of a classic rock album or road movie". When the editors write that reading Alan Hollinghurst's The Folding Stor is "like contemplating one of the great paintings of the Flemish Old Masters", or that in The Little Dis-turbances of Man. "Grace Paley adds greatly to the joy of life, each

story like sipping a very strong, very dry Martini", we want to ask:

How, precisely?
Precision, it seems, is not something that troubles the editors greatly. Far more disturbing than the banality of some of their judgements, however, is the quality of much of their prose. We have no reason to expect a former publisher even one as distinguished as Callil to be able to write well, but Toibin is a critically acclaimed novelist and a fine literary journalist.

Since the entries are unattributed, we cannot tell who is responsible for such sentences as: "Raymond Carver chose this selection of his stories before he died, a permanent deterrent to the rash of imitators who have since appeared. Fortunately his writing is inimitable." Who or what is a deterrent? Carver? His tautologically chosen selection? The fact he made it before rather than after his death? If his writing is inimitable, who are these imitators? It is particularly unfortunate that a novel such as Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's Heat and Dust should be described as "gracefully written, finely constructed" in a sentence that continues: "it fascinates both as a love story, and as a sensuous evocation of what the English lost most in India - the soul and feeling those sent out to rule her longed for, yet feared the most."

The book is at its most embarrassing when its authors aspire towards what is presumably intended to be "colourful" writing. Our attention is drawn to "the verbal rainstorm that Amis pours through Self's repellent mouth" in Money; a character in Henry Green's Nothing is depicted "manipulating malice like a sten gun": Khanna "laughs with his chorus of fools, while his sharp eye makes subtler mincemeat of religious differences and useless taboos."

When the editors write that "The classic English detective story has inveigled readers all over the world into the mysteries of English life", one can only suppose that they think that "inveigle" is a posh word for "introduce". Another attempted synonym for "introduce" is "chivvy", as when they tell us that the words of an "unmistakable" sentence from one of VS Pritchett's stories "chivvy us into the Pritchett world".

You finish The Modern Library reflecting on the irony that a book trumpeted as "Everyone's essential guide to the world's greatest pleasure: Reading" provides so little of that pleasure for its own readers.

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN A happy family of constant readers

WORLD BOOK Day unfolded yesterday with an array of Comic Relief-style stunts. Readers unswayed by sermons from Vanessa Feltz should still back its chief good cause: Book Aid International (at 39-41 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5), which last year sent 735,000 vital volumes to

educators in 54 countries.

Even in richer climes. books may do much more than furnish a room. In Ex Libris (Allen Lane, £9.99), Anne Fadiman collects 18 charmingly obsessive essays about her lifetime of bibliophilia. Fadiman (who edits The American Scholar) is the sort of print junkie who can spend "many a lonely night in small-town hotel rooms consoled by the Yellow Pages". Even in the week of her first child's birth. she got stuck into an 1877 primer on "distaff virtues" by a priest. Then she asked her husband to grade her on Father O'Reilly's scale -"religious fervour, 0; thrift, 3"... but "kindness, 10; truthfulness, 10".

As those scores suggest, this witty book can sound a teensy-weensy bit smug. Fadiman is one of those elegantly upmarket US journos who seem so much less *grubby* than their Brit peers. Writers' memoirs and early novels often tell a tale of learning snatched from the jaws of poverty or mockery. Not so Fadiman, who hails from a bookworshipping family and still cherishes the teenage marginalia in her copy of Middlemarch ("page 37: 'Grrr'; page 261: 'Bullshit': page 294: 'Yccch'").

My delight in a fellow addict's printed pleasures withered only once: as she remembered her folks clustered around the US equivalent of University Challenge, trouncing all the jocks up on the screen. This cute foursome called itself "Fadiman U." and only lost to their rivals on the TV twice "in five or six years of competition". One feels (unlike the author) somewhat lost for words except, perhaps, "Grrr", or even "Yccch".

SPOKEN WORD

BY CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

ADD THE appropriate music to a firstclass reader of a first-class story. and the listening experience is even more enhanced. Vikram Seth's new novel is a

An Equal Music is the music Read by Alan Bates which is the

tale of obsessive love among musicians which should be awarded a place next to Casablanca and Brief Encounter in the pantheon of noble renunciations of forbidden love. Alan Bates reads Kati Nicholl's sensitive abridgement brilliantly,

taking us more and more deeply into the at first only opaquely perceived central character. But it

Orion, 6hrs 25mins, tour de force. In the book, Seth makes symbolic use of particular passages from particular composers played in a particular way. Producer Nicholas Jones enriches the reading by letting us hear the music

mentioned, culminating in

the "equal music" of

Bach's Art of the Fugue.

escape THE TRAVEL BOOK CLUB P E We bring the world to

your door see page 24 of The Independent Magazine

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



1960s Collins Gem, £4.99 192pp

DESPITE ITS titchy format, the profuse illustrations in this snappy guide to the swinging decade will trigger potent memories in babyboomers: Torrey Canyon smoulders; Ursula Andress reaches for her diving knife (Dr No opened in 1962); and Sharon Tate poses in op-art jeans (she was murdered on 9 August 1969). On the minus side, there is too much about the Beatles and not enough on Vietnam. Companion volumes cover the Fifties, Seventies and Nineties.



Freedomland by Richard Price. Bloomsbury, £6,99

READING RICHARD Price -

one of Hollywood's best paid hacks - is like living through a particularly hyper episode of NYPD Blues. Author of Clockers and several screenplays (The Sea of Love, Ransom). Price's latest book is a meaty thriller set in New Jersey's scummier housing proiects and run-down A&E departments. The book's hero, DI Lorenzo Council. faces a long summer with the disappearance of a young boy from his mother's car and an unsolved double homicide.



A Social History of Madness by Roy Porter. Phoenix. £8.99, 261pp

"MADNESS IS a foreign country" but, as Porter reveals, it has its own rationality. Sketching a design for Kew, George III said that it was "not bad for a man who is mad." An outburst by John Perceval, incarcerated son of a PM, rings as true today as in 1838: "Drench a young man with medicines. shut him in a room of ranting madmen... what good can you expect?" Noting "the mad talk about God, kings and devils as we do... with different nuances", Porter says "we all have phantoms in the head."



Once in a House on Fire by Andrea Ashworth, Picador, £6.99, 330pp

OXFORD ACADEMIC Andrea Ashworth's memoir of growing up Northern, poor and abused is a hard book to categorise. Told from a child's point of view, with no retrospective spin, it feels more like a novel than a memoir not that any of this stops it being an unputdownable read. Brought up in innercity Manchester, nourished on Spangles and Refreshers. Ashworth tells how she and her sisters survived life in a household dominated by a violent stepfather.

INSPIRATIONS CRIME WRITER REGINALD HILL

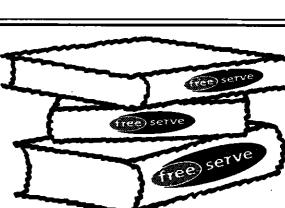
Play: Twelfth Night. The Film: For fun, The

Place: The Lake District where I live. If I had to pick one specially blessed spot. there's a fell top, not one of the highest but in sight of the highest, unapproached by any of the Wainwright super-highways, where a man can sit in airy solitude and think Wordsworthian thoughts, and it's called ... but no; you find your own!

Man at his most generous. with characters ranging from the irresistible to the unspeakable, humour from subtle social commentary to farce, language from vigorous vernacular to languorous poetry, in a setting which weaves together Illyrian silk and Elizabethan worsted.

Producers: for fantasy The Wizard of Oz: but for gutbusting impact, it has to be On the Waterfront which I first saw way back when it was still possible to stumble on a great movie unawares without having heard it discussed ad nauseam on the media shows.

Artwork: From the 1985 Renoir exhibition, the Jeunes filles au piano. A young girl leans forward to study the music with her brunette friend by her side. There were three versions on display. I preferred the earliest, an unfinished oil sketch, because to me incompleteness is what the painting is about.



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MMPUTER AS

Cheat your way to a perfect tan for the May bank holiday says Nathalie Curry

clothing? Thank- on your skin. fully, you don't have to be either brave or booked on reach for the bottle.

Everyone knows how a tan can bring out the colour of make your curves and dim-

xpose those bare roast in the summer sun are difficult part is knowing what to legs? Discard your gone, Even 20 minutes covlayers of winter ered in SPF15 can take its toll

So, fake it - and, no, that doesn't have to mean Tangoa two-week beach holiday. Just coloured cheeks and scary streaks. Straightforward to apply and natural-looking, some fake tans now include UV your eyes and sometimes even protection and even smell decent. With the new generation ples seem endearing, but the of gels, sprays and lotions, fakedays when we could happily tanning is a breeze. The really

choose. Find out what our testers thought (below) or just experiment but make sure it's tinted so that you can see which

bits you've tanned. Don't be put off by the high price of some take tans. In general, they are well worth the money and you will get good results. However, price is not always an indication of quality and some of the cheaper products are also great value.

right, set aside enough time to apply it. It may sound obvious but the more care you take, the better the results.

First, cleanse and exfoliate your skin thoroughly. Dry your-self properly, since damp areas of skin will affect the evenness of your tan and, before applying the self-tan, massage some hand cream into your palms to prevent them turning brown. Next, apply the fake tan with

"instantly bronzes, for

a sunkissed look. A nat-

ural, lasting tan devel-

ops after just one hour."

Go Bronze Tinted Self-

Tanner For Face, £16.50.

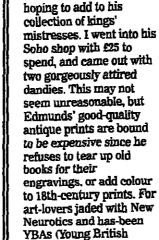
Esteé Lauder (0800 525 501)

Self-tun lotian

(01903 731 500)

Once you've got the product long, even strokes. Use it sparingly on elbows, knees and knuckles and keep it away from your hairline and eyebrows. And resist the urge to wrap yourself in your best white bathrobe for at least 15 minutes!

Finally, if tans are really not your thing but you long for some sunshine, treat yourself to Philosophy's Sunbathing bubble-bath. Lie back and immerse yourself in summery. tangerine bubbles.



Artists), 18th-century

satirical caricatures are

A RECENT client of Andrew Edmunds was

worth every penny. Edmunds' elegant print shop in Soho is a time capsule of Georgian London, beloved by art museums around the word. It was originally the front room of a Georgian house, and its fireplace. mantelpiece and panelled walls haven't changed since the 18th century. The prints themselves are housed in late-18th century mahogany haberdashers' drawers one still bears the label

"riding things") and a Regency portfolio stand. If you want to browse. Edmunds will give you a guided tour of the history of print-making over the past 200 years. To illustrate a technical point he may pick up a print that is casually lying around in loose-sheet covers on a table. In my case, it was two prints of The Enraged Musician by Hogarth. Prints of this engraving were being made by Boydell (the printer who bought up Hogarth's plates from his widow) until the First World War, but each time the prints were made, the quality of the plate would



Dandies Sans Souci' by William Heath

deteriorate further: "The last gasp of being acceptable is 1790, as the plate was made in 1741." So a print made during Hogarth's lifetime was worth £1,200, whereas the slightly fainter one, made 40 years later, was worth

CHECK IT OUT ANDREW EDMUNDS

> History lesson over Edmunds' showed me a sheath of lewd lithographs depicting mass orgies and overwrought scenes of bedlam. "Apart from politics, it's all tits and bums," he admitted. One, by Gillray, was so subtle and prettily done, it was hard to discern its scurrilous intent.

> Fashionable Contrasts; or - The Duchess's Little Shoe Yeilding [sic] to the Magnitude of the Duke's Foot (1792) shows two feet, encased in a tiny pair of embroidered slippers, nestling either side of a pair of larger feet in buckled boots. It refers to the gush of fatuous adulation which journalists showered on the newly married Duchess of York and her

'dainty little shoe". The "assorted" drawer contains late-18th and early-19th-century caricatures, all with original colouring, for

around £100. George Cruickshank's *The Cholic* (1819) shows a howl of anguish coming from an aristocratic lady in yellowand pink finery, as she is tormented by two demons tightening a cord around her waist. Far too vicious for me, I wanted to buy a deliciously plump lady entitled Fut, Foir and Forty for a friend of mine who is, well, exactly that, but Edmunds hinted it might be taken amiss.

Instead, I bought an 1820s William Heath brothel scene, Dandies Sans Souci, showing two semi-conscious shop boys being robbed by prostitutes. "Like kids with trainers these days." Edmunds explained, "they'd spent all their money on clothes." The satirist's point is always worth making.

LILIAN PIZZICHINI

Andrew Edmunds, 44 Lexington Street, London W1 (0171-437 8594). He can also be found, today and tomorrow, from 10am to 6pm, at the London Original Print Fair, Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccodilly, London W1 (0171-300 8000). Entrance costs £5

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9999) or Liberty (0171-734 1234)

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mist, £12,50, or Self-Sun self-tanning lotion. £11.50, Clinique (0171-409 6951)



"Results are darker

than expected - a beach

tan look. Use with care

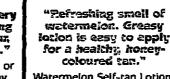
to avoid streaks."

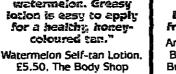
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Spray, £8, Body Cream (SPF4), £7, and Facial Cream (SPF4), £6, Marks & Spencer

(0171-395 4422)

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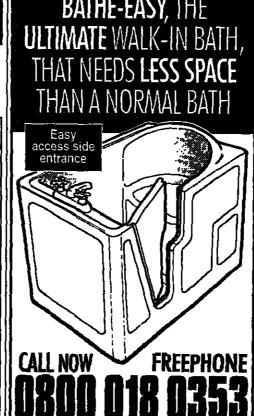
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THE Erotic

I 🛘 l'endose i cheque (made out to 1975) for 🔼 000°. D Debit my VISA MASTERCARD AMEX SMITCH DELTA card (2000). D Can Martin Myerscough's monster monotub revamp the humble washing machine? By David Redhead

The wash of the Titans

Millennium seems to have re-awakened English inventors' collective spirit of adventure. Hard on the heels of such fin de siècle mouldbreakers as Trevor Baylis's clockwork radio and James Dyson's bagless vacuum cleaner comes the Titan washing machine, the latest in a series of inventions which attempt to invest dull domesticity with a sense of glamour and excitement. Not that the prototype I saw demonstrated at London's Design Museum last week looks superficially any different from an ordinary machine. White, boxy and standard-sized with a conventional "porthole" window, it would blend in well at any Comet or Curry's. But for the unusually large door, that is. Open it and you immediately grasp the machine's chief selling point. The

interior is huge. So

manufacturer, Monotub Industries, didn't christen it the Tardis. "It accommodates 40 per cent more washing than other machines

of the same size," its bullish inventor and Monotub founder, Martin Myerscough, tells me proudly before launching into an animated exposition of the Titan's other major benefits: a removable plastic washing basket for convenient loading and unloading; an inclined drum which allows easier access to the contents; and the facility to open the machine at any point during the cycle without flooding the kitchen floor.

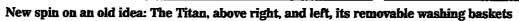
Only those lucky enough to avoid regular laundry duties would dismiss such features as minor innovations. I'm hardly in the Good Housekeeping Institute league myself but, as one New Manly enough to take on my fair share of the washing load, I'm predicting success for the Titan when it reaches the market some time next year. For one thing it's a machine that, unlike my own Bosch, really feels big enough;

for another, I won't need to waste time trying to force open the machine in mid-cycle to add the smalls I've accidentally scattered down the stairs; finally and most important, this is a machine that won't mix up my socks or wash stray coloureds with precious whites. With the plastic clothes basket - you can buy and rotate two if you wish - and the 20/20 view of what goes in and comes out of the Titan, there's simply no longer anywhere for odd socks to hide.

If it does take off, the Titan will be The Clitheroe-born 42-year-old is already doing rather well as financial director of KS Biomedix, an arthritis-drug company he

> stockmarket five years ago. So what, I wonder, sets a chartered accountant turned biotech entrepreneur thinking about ironing out the irritating aspects of our domestic appliances? The answer, it seems, is a desire to make money, combined with a generous dash of lateral creativity. Myer-





scough is something of a designer led by partner Anne Gardener, workmanque himself. He trained as a ing alongside product engineers naval architect, consciously opting Cock & Hen and Myerscough him-Martin Myerscough's second winner. for a more lucrative career at the age self on 15 prototypes and four sepof 30 but never abandoning what he arate research surveys before calls "my compulsion to invent". "It settling on its final form." Gardener makes no apologies

years ago that started me thinking for the understated styling of the about washing," he says . "I realised machine. "We could have taken the that all washing machines were the jazzy, coloured route that Zanussi same. They are all designed to suit has with its new machines, but that manufacturers rather than the pub- could have been alienating," she lic. That's what I set out to change." argues. "It isn't about novelty. It's Mverscough soon realised that he about making the Titan familiar

It remains to be seen if the great shape in the five years since then, British public will be prepared to with TKO's women dominated team, trade in its Hoovers and Hotpoints

for an unproven machine made by Bosches for one new Titan? Ironian unknown company. There is cally, industry gossip suggests that however a recent, encouraging, precedent

"One thing Dyson's success proved is that if the product is different enough and good enough, brands and names don't count for much," says Myerscough. "Besides, I think people are already dissatisfied with what is currently available."

He is not expecting a nation to be rushing to trade in their old machines en masse as they did with the Dyson. "Washing machines are too pricey for that," he admits, but points out nonetheless that the existing two million people who trade in their washing machine for a new one each year already provide plenty of potential customers.

So would I swap my two ageing

DESIGN LINES



A TIARA made of paper string (above, by Angela O'Kelly), wooden dresses, and garments of silk, copper wire and fishing-line are among the more implausible objects that hover uncertainly between fashion and fantasy. the wardrobe and the wall, in a new exhibition, Wearable Art, at Contemporary Applied Arts in London. Apart from Victoria

Metcalf's timber frocks (recently paraded on the catwalk by Julien Macdonald), the show consists of four jewellers and four makers of textiles whose work is united by an invigorating level of experimentation.

In fact, much of what is on show is eminently wearable, including Asta Barrington's embroidered bags in frosted blue, lilac and silver (to say nothing of her exquisite silk and felted scarves), Anna Gordon's elegant geometric chain necklaces and Carole Waller's layered and painted dresses, shirts and skirts.

Many pieces are gloriously flamboyant: when Joan Bakewell wore one of Kate Wilkinson's feather and crystal ruffs at the Bafta awards a few years ago it was a muchphotographed sensation; and Maria Hansen's metal bracelet, spreading out like an Andy Goldsworthy twig raft, would ensure that no one gets too close to you.

Even the more unexpected materials - such as the discs of the Financial Times (360 per inch) making up Angela O'Kelly's torque - have been used to produce things that look good on people. Which is quite different from most art. ANNABEL FREYBERG

Wearable Art is at the CAA, 2 Percu Street, London W1 (0171-436 2344) until 29 May, Mon to Sat 10.30am-5.30pm

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was a chat I had with a repair man helped launch on the

> couldn't do it on his own. He ap- enough to be recognised as a washproached Trevor Baylis who put ing machine. We're communicating him in contact with TKO, the Lon- its benefits in a form with which don-based product design specialists people are already familiar in their who were behind the Baygen clock- own kitchens. work radio. The Titan has taken

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Martin Myerscough's chief compe-

tition may yet come from one of the

innovators he so admires. James

Dyson is said to be planning the

launch of a new washing machine

later this year - purported to be one

that removes all water from clothes.

try to keep my nine-year-old ma-

chine limping on until we see what

millennial wonder the dual-cyclone

king has up his sleeve. But now

that I have seen the Titan I reckon

that, if Dyson is to do for washing

what he did for vacuuming, his new

machine will have to be big as well

Bearing this in mind, I think I'll

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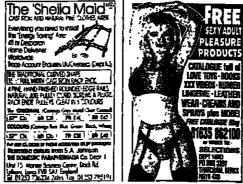
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New England's Pacific coast

Should they have been celebrating St George's Day on the northern Californian coast yesterday? Yes, says Tamsin Murray Leach

cans would that original New England is not their beloved land of white clapboard churches, colourful autuma leaves and Puritan pilgrims. It isn't even on the East Coast. The New England, or Nova Albion, claimed by Sir Francis Drake for Queen Elizabeth I in 1579 is in fact a small peninsula in California, just north of San Francisco.

Historians surmise that Point Reyes - a popular R&R spot for weary Bay-area dwellers - is the place most likely to have provided Sir Francis and the world-weary crew of the Golden Hind with rest and repairs on their journey ound the Americas. Drake spent more than a

month shored up in the natural harbour that is now known as Drake's Bay, fixing his ship and blushingly attempting to persuade the native Miwok Indians that all good Christians ought to keep their privates covered. Pronouncing it "a goodly country, and fruitfull soyle, stored with many blessings fit for the use of man, Drake returned home to deliver the news of this promised land to his queen, only to get distracted by the nasty Spaniards and their Armada. He never returned to settle his claim, and subsequent English colonists took the short route to America, sensibly heading straight across the Atlantic.

Which is a good thing, too, because for the last 420 years, Point Reyes has been largely left alone. After the Spanish discovered San Francisco Bay towards the end of the 18th century, a succession of newly independent Mexican lords peninsula. Still undeveloped, was turned over to dairy ranchers when the Republic of Mexico lost California to the United States in 1848.

You pass by these ranches as you drive through the area's pastoral lands along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, with each ranch originally titled after a dif-About a dozen are still in operation today, but Point Reyes remains a wilderness for the most part, a peninsula of rugged coastline, redwood forest and inland estuary.

The area was declared a National Seashore in 1962, with the inland buffer of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area serving to protect it from the encroaching suburbanisation of the San Francisco region.

The park, which is less than

seemed surprisingly empty when I arrived. I asked a young and healthy-looking park ranger whether it ever got crowded. He replied pleasantly enough that yes, it did get relatively busy during summer weekends, with campsites filled

up two months in advance. "But it's empty during the week," he said as he leant forward and lowered his voice, suddenly conspiratorial. "The people who come here are city folk," he whispered, almost vehemently, "and they need to work weekdays to pay for their \$100,000 houses and \$100,000 Visa bills." He shook his head in disgust at such types. I backed away sheepishly, feeling that my credit card was burning a hole in my back pocket.

Though tourism has been responsible for the regeneration of the small towns that lie just outside the park's boundaries, locals are fiercely protective of their rural, secluded lifestyle. While some have been fishing or ranching on the Point for generations, many are relics of the Sixties counter-culture, and are strongly opposed to the values of big-city society.

Down in Bolinas, a tiny town on the park's southern tip, the old hippies and young runaways who call the place home have built somewhat of a reputation for uprooting road signs. They want Bolinas and its tempting organic bakery to be left in peace, stranded in obscurity for them to enjoy.

It is not quite the enthusiastic welcome that the Miwoks gave Drake. They crowned him with feathers and fell to their knees in supplication, tearing at their chests because they believed that he was a god.

The Miwoks are long gone, sold into slavery by the Spanish, and their name was mangled by a local resident, George Lucas, for the fuzz-balls in Return of the Jedi; the locals today are a little more offhand. But then, you don't visit Point Reyes for the company - quite

There are 150 miles of hiking and horseback-riding trails in a soul along the Bear Valley route, which was fine by me. I peered earnestly at the sign which informed me that I was walking directly along the San Andreas Fault; wandered along a fairy-tale babbling brook that meandered through a mossy wood, with the ground carpeted with spring flowers; and startled a small herd of bigeared deer in Divide Meadow.

If it had been a little warmer, I would have camped in one of



Sir Francis Drake claimed Point Reyes, California for Queen Elizabeth I

But the weather here is remifog and rain to roll in quickly from the shore.

I began my Bear Valley trek on a fresh and breezy morning, picnicked under a blazing sky and speed-walked the last halfmile in a downpour, with memories of childhood holidays in the West Country fresh in my mind.

Wet clothes and the cold spring nights prompted me to stay in the old wooden youth hostel with its cosy readingroom and sunny porch, located in a secluded valley right in the

centre of the park. The hippie niscent of the old England, hosts show guests the comoptions for solitude on even the minute, with plenty of sunshine sign chores and then withdraw fully, leaving everyone to

The beach and estuary are of an otter, or that a seaguil marked as a wildlife sanctuary, Point Reyes, providing plenty of subject to change at any munal kitchen and dorms, as- and it was here that I first Beach rewarded me immedien my new and old Albion.

> Drake spent a month fixing his ship and attempting to persuade the native Indians to keep their privates covered

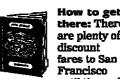
just get on with it. After sorting I must have spent hours linens, I strolled down to Li-straining my eyes in English mantour Beach, within sight wildlife sanctuaries trying to of the spot where Drake convince myself that a partialsupposedly landed. ly submerged log was the head

realised the biggest difference ately with herons, seals frolicking in the surf close to the shore, and a pelican fly-by over a tide that gilded the sands with reflections from the setting sun. Over 400 species of birds

constituted wildlife. Limantour

William M. Smithev

have been sighted at Point Reyes, and some of the seashore's rarer mammals include the elephant seal and a herd of Tule elk, practically extinct until their reintroduction here in 1978. The park is also famous locally as the best spot to watch for grey whales during their annual 12,000 mile



Francisco until the end of June. Non-stop from Heathrow, you can fly on British Airways, United or Virgin Atlantic. Through Trailfinders (0171-937 5400), there is also a return fare of £348 on United in May. If you are prepared to

change planes en route, you can get an even lower fare; Flightbookers (0171-757 3000) quotes £291 on Delta via Cincinatti or Atlanta. The Point Reyes National Seashore is situated off Highway 1 in Marin County, north of San Francisco. Crossing Mount Tamalpas, passing giant redwoods at Muir Woods National

Monument and following the rocky coastline of Marin County, the drive alone is practically worth Permits are required

for camping. They can be bought for \$10 per site at the Bear Valley Visitor's Center or reserved by credit card up to two months in advance by calling 001 415 663 8054 between 9am and 2pm Pacific Daylight Time (-8 hours BST), Monday to Friday. Reservations are recommended at weekends and during the summer. Campsites are located anything up to six miles from the nearest parking lot and are accessible by foot or mountain bike. Toilets are provided. Water is available, but must be treated; no wood fires are

Dorm beds at the youth hostel cost \$12 a night: you do not need YHA membership. Linen and towels can be rented for \$1 each. One private room is available for parents with children aged five or younger. Office hours are 7.30am-9.30am and 4.30pm-9.30pm PST. Reservations are recommended for Friday and Saturday. Hostelling International - Point Reyes, Box 247, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 (001 415 663 8811); www.hiayh.org/ ushostel/ pnwreg/pointr.htm

Provisions can be purchased in the nearby towns of Olema, Inverness and Point Reyes Station. The latter is the biggest settlement in the area. The Bovine Bakery produces scrumptious pastries and great coffee. while the Station House Café is a favourite for its seafood and generous bread-baskets. Both are on the main street. More information: consult National Park Service website www.nps.gov/pore/visit.ht m, or call Bear Valley Visitor's Center (001 415 663 1092).

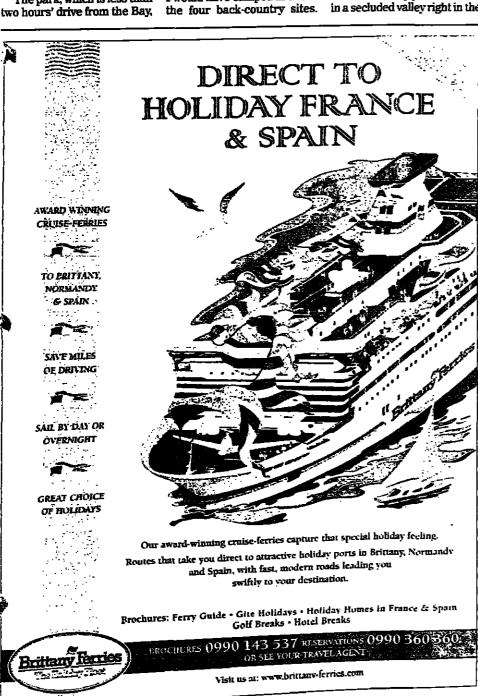
round-trip migration from the Gulf of Alaska to the Sea of Cortez, with buses ferrying hordes of visitors out to the the prime watching periods my discovery of New Albion a between December and April

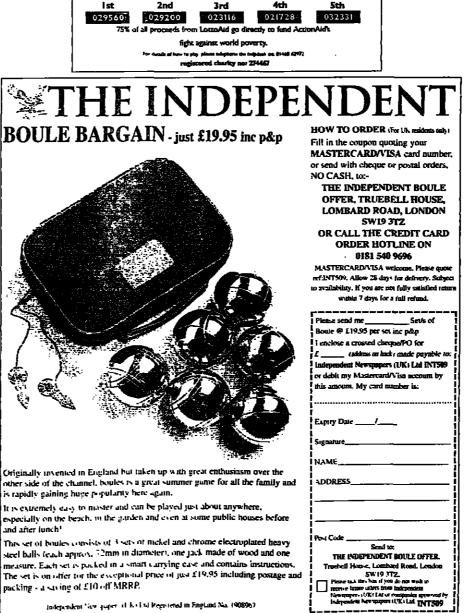
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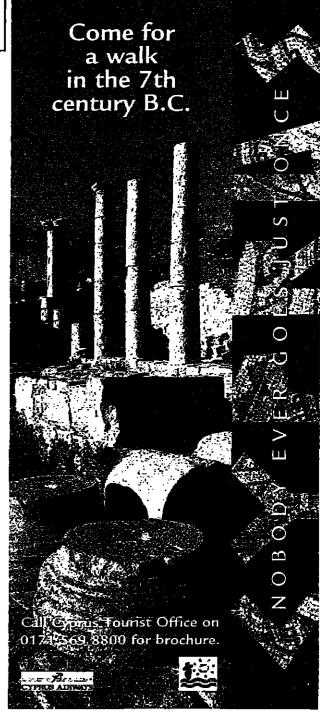
The days have gone when I could follow Sir Francis Drake's example and just nail the Queen's arms in the form of a shiny sixpence to a post on the Point Reves shore, thereby claiming the area for my fellow

Englishmen. The sixpence is no more, and pound coins are a little too thick for such deeds. Thanks to new technology, I can little faster than Drake was able to.

Just don't tell the immigration officials when you arrive in San Francisco that the purpose of your trip is to visit New England - they might get a little confused.







Hamish McRae takes his family on a five-day course in the Red Sea to find out why diving is the fastest-growing activity holiday,

Taking the plunge

skiing. It's not only the fastest-growing form of mainstream activity holiday – skiing used to be - but it also has a similar mix of holiday ingredients: a physical activity, the opportunity to learn a new set of skills, a different view of an extraordinarily beautiful aspect of our planet (looking up through the water instead of down through the clouds), the camaraderie of interesting people, and maybe also that tiny edge of danger. And, yes, if you go for warm waters you get enough of a tan to irritate your colleagues back in the office.

For Britons interested in learning how to dive there are two main options. The first is, or at least until recently has been, a rather militarystyle training, stiff-upper-lip stuff. Here in Britain, under the auspices of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), you get a thorough training which will equip you to dive in the murky difficult and often dangerous waters around the UK as well as more exotic locations. The other is to take a basic course in warm waters on holiday, usually with the Professional Association of Diving

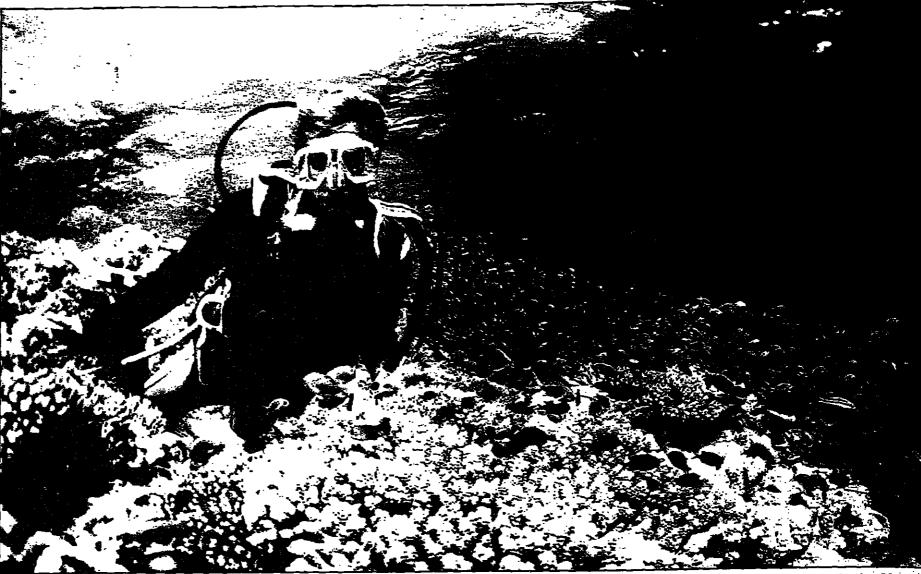
Instructors (PADI). The PADI standard full-time, fiveday course was designed, originally by Americans, to be fun - and unsurprisingly PADI now trains more divers than all the other diving associations put together. While BSAC now has a similar five-day course, Padi established a global lead which

So, when we were faced with a

cuba diving is the new spare week that might have been allocated to late Easter skiing in the Alps, but wanted to learn a new craft, we chose PADI. The "we" in this instance were myself and my wife plus, to our surprise, our 21- and 19-year-old daughters (as with skiing. the prospect of a free and interesting holiday overcomes any latent irritation at the prospect of holidaying with fiftysomething parents).

On the advice of an experienced diver, we chose the Red Sea. Enthusiasts may debate whether that or the Maldives, the Caribbean or the Great Barrier Reef offer the best diving in the world. But for the learner, the Red Sea is perfect: clear warm water, an extraordinary abundance of marine life and established training facilities. It also offers, for British-based divers, the nearest coral reefs in the world and - if you stay in the Sharm el Sheikh region of Egypt - it's just a five-hour flight from Gatwick and a 20-minute transfer at the other end. In practical terms (allowing for the shorter transfer and the cheaper cost of accommodation), the Red Sea is as quick to reach and as cheap to hook as the Alps.

And the diving? There are a number of skills that you have to learn, such as clearing a mask underwater and adjusting your buoyancy so that you don't keep bobbing upwards and plunging back down. which are not difficult but do require familiarity with the water. There is also a certain amount of theory that you need to know, like how to calculate the amount of nitrogen the body has absorbed during its time underwater and how long it will take



The Red Sea offers British divers the chance to explore coral reefs relatively close to home

for that to return to normal. Errors can prove very serious.

If this sounds a bit daunting, the PADI course is a brilliantly designed example of structured adult learning: a mixture of videos. classroom teaching, pool training (our "pool" was a coral-rimmed, fencedoff bit of the Red Sea) and openwater dives. I suspect we were particularly well taught. The school the Red Sea Diving College at Na'ama Bay, just north of Sharm specialised in diver training up to instructor level and we were also lucky with our instructor. Tamer, a thoughtful Egyptian who had exchanged the hassles of computer programming in Cairo for the lifestyle of the Sinai. And the

five days being shouted at in a skischool, the Padi course was a joy.

The reward? As a newly qualified diver you are limited to 18 metres depth, and the practical time limit for a dive is about an hour, maybe less. But during an hour underwater you can see 50 or more species of fish and coral forms: the smaller multicoloured reef fish nibbling away at the coral, the occasional visit from a giant tuna sashaying in from the deep blue beyond, the grey moray eel poking its nose out from a rock. the blue spotted stingray doing a little floor-show shuffle in the sand and so on. For the novice it is thrilling, educating and humbling. Finally, one worry and one

learning was fun. Compared with pleasant surprise. The worry is the extent to which diving may itself damage the environment. Coral is threatened everywhere. At Sharm. the authorities have worked hard to preserve their reefs and one has to hope that the money from diving will encourage continued efforts at conservation, but the explosive growth of the urban sprawl must be putting great pressure on the environment.

> Decompression rules require that divers do not fly within 24 hours after diving, so we used the spare day to head up the coast to a nature reserve and then into the mountains. So far, the development is contained to a narrow band on the coast, but the danger that we might kill the things we love is ever-present.

The surprise was to find out just how nice scuba divers are as a breed: helpful, thoughtful, tolerant of the incompetence of novices - and with none of that brash, showy-offy style of skiers who should know better. Yes, I think we will probably go skiing next year, for it is hard to match the exhilaration of swooping down a mountain. But we will certainly try and grab a few days scuba diving too. Are we hooked? I guess so – it is, after all, wonderful to discover a new excitement.

A really quite youthful Hamish McRae paid a total of £1,000 for his holiday, which was booked through Crusader Leisure (0181-744 0474). The package included return flights family of four.



from Gatwick to Sharm-el-Sheikh airport, all transfers, bed and breakfast accommodation at the Marriott Hotel and the open water PADI certification course for a

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JUDGING BY the response to the item last week on French Motorail, many of you are waiting to spend a lot of money on car-carrying trains this summer - but Rail Europe, the SNCF offshoot that sells the tickets in Britain, is doing everything possible to frustrate your efforts. The company blames problems with its computer system for its inability to accept bookings for the peak holiday month of August; perhaps it should also

check its phone system. The recorded announcement when you call Rail Europe (0990 848 848) insists that August reservations for Motorail will be available from Monday, 26 April. When you get through to a human being, you are told that bookings will not, in fact, open until 3 May. The helpful



SIMON CALDER

Ring Rail Europe and be prepared for the Housemartins' greatest hits

gentleman to whom I eventually spoke suggested that sending a fax to 0171-803 4850 might be easier.

Joanna Mirnmack of Exeter writes to describe how she

similar refusal to accept bookings more than two months in advance." Ms Mimmack then called booked Motorail to Italy from Cologne in Germany, which is

circumvented what can only

loosely be described as a

"system", "First, I tried

phoning SNCF Paris to book

from Lille, but encountered a

Calais to Cologne is straightforward on the motorway. Tickets are forwarded immediately by first-class post." are grimly hanging on the line to Rail Europe, still listening to the Housemartins' greatest

so often the music comes

a lot cheaper (£414 return).

The rest of us, meanwhile. hits. Presumably it is someone's idea of a joke that every

around again to the jolly time "Happy Hour".

To vary things a little in between attempts to get some sense out of Rail Europe, I have been dialling Great Western telesales. On 0345 000 125 you never, ever get the Housetainable tone. (b) the engaged tone, and (c) someone who tells you that the train company isn't yet taking bookings for trains to Devon and Cornwall in August - despite the most significant astronomical event of a lifetime taking place there. If you want to book a trip in time for the total solar eclipse on 11 August, the best the reservations can suggest is that tickets

will go on sale "hopefully within

German Railways in London attempts you get (a) constant cent. Instead of the usual £30.50 last week, which referred to (0171-317 0919): "We have now ringing followed by the unob- return from Birmingham to Long Island's "New England" Penzance, for example, the lowest fare around the date of the eclipse is a Supersaver, orice at a dazzling £75.50.

Over at Virgin Trains, you

can at last make bookings on

trains to south Devon and

TWO E-MAILS from the US this week, one silly, one sensible.

"We are so excited," begins a breathless missive from the reservations computer of a cutprice airline, "that you look to Southwest Airlines for low Internet fares. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, Southwest Airlines is not offering any click'n'save Internet specials this week." Rather more exciting was a

Cornwall in August. At a price. The company says that it has message from Raphael Soifer, who describes himself as "a taken steps "to control train" prudish American reader". loadings". And what is the best way to do that? To increase the

"I feel compelled to point out martins. Instead, on successive lowest fare on sale by 150 per a flaw in Anthony Rose's story charm", which is fine, except for the fact that Long Island is not and never has been New England. We citizens of New England (which comprises Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine) are fiercely proud of our geo graphic uniqueness. Calling Long Island part of New England is like calling Lincoln the most charming part of Nottinghamshire."



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Flights are from Heathrow to Venice every facilities Sunday morning using a scheduled seat configured aircraft. We have chosen the splendid hotel the 3-star Hotel Britannia St Mark's Square, the Doge's Palace, the Excelsior (or similar) on Lake Como as our Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge and a

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while the guests at one Bahamian hideaway came for yoga classes, but got distracted by the scuba diving, says Rachel Henry

Cocktails and coral reefs

حكدًا من الاحل

h'm a 62-year-old grandmother." said Sue Weant, in her Scarlett O'Hara accent as she flapped across the deck in wetsuit, flippers and air tank. "Ah cain't believe ah'm doin' this." Standing at a gap in the boat railings, she stepped over the side and vanished into the Caribbean.

Being a natural wimp, I couldn't believe it either as I stood in the sun, knees buckling under the weight of the tank, ready to follow Sue in a free-fall to the water's surface. "Fix your eyes on the horizon."

said Garvin, our Bahamian divemaster, "OK, now step forward." My brain tried to tell my leg to move but the leg wasn't keen. "Go on," said Garvin. "You'll be fine." So I stepped, and after a moment's confusion and noise, the turquoise world below became a place of deep calm and quiet. Except for the sound of breathing. In... out... in... out. We had been warned: if you hold your breath while swimming upwards, the pressure change expands the air, your lungs explode and you die.

I'd had no intention of diving when I arrived three days earlier at Small Hope Bay Lodge on Andros island, in the Bahamas. I'd booked in for a winter getaway - a week's yoga course - but everyone, including Dolly, the yoga instructor's motherin-law, who is in her seventies, was snorkelling or diving between classes. It seemed a shame-to miss out.

Sue and I did our safety training one afternoon. Garvin took us out to Goat Cay, a tiny island with a shelving white-sand beach. He was thorough, repeating the procedures until we had them right - how to breathe underwater, how to hold our noses and blow to equalise ear pressure, and how to replace mask and mouthpiece should they get knocked off. Knocked off by what, I wanted to know - barracuda? shark? whale?

On a morning dive, one member of our party, Carol, a paramedic, came across a 30ft (harmless) whale shark. She was shaking when she climbed ack on board. Mark, a race-horse trainer from Kentucky, had a noseto-nose encounter with a curious barracuda. "Man, I held my knees to my chin and just kept that fish in front of me," he said. "No way was I let-

ting that sucker get round my back." Diving was a revelation. Like fly-



A dive boat moored off the beach at Small Hope Bay Lodge on the Bahamian island of Andros, by the world's third-largest barrier reef

Rachel Henry

iewel-coloured fish-butterflies. But as I swam towards the coral floor. a piercing pain shot through my head. I tried holding my nose and blowing, but the only relief came by swimming upwards. I looked for my "buddy" (no one dives alone) and couldn't see him. Suddenly the ocean seemed a vast and lonely place to be. Panicking, I struck out for the underside of the boat, pitching in the waves some 40ft away. But the loo lurched alarmingly. One the harder I swam, the further away it seemed. Finally, I reached the boat's ladder and clung on: safe, but feeling rather silly. My buddy said he had been below me all the time.

Back at the lodge it was almost time for cocktails. I wanted a nice liepalm trees to the row of wooden cab- the staff get behind the old cut-in-half ins. One of the truly wonderful things about Small Hope Bay Lodge is the beds. They are huge, laden with pillows, and have perfectly placed reading lamps. Clean, fluffy towels are delivered daily and rooms are spotless, with doors opening on to the beach. All this more than makes up for the dodgy plumbing. Powershowers are more power-dribble, and night it was home to a sweet little frog who had swum up round the Ubend. An exception to the eccentric pipework is the hot pool, a Jacuzzi set in a sun-deck and sheltered by

In the lounge, guests can help ing over a glorious garden with down first, so I wandered through the themselves to drinks, but at 6.30pm lodge in 1960. Dick Birch also pio- at these levels, where inexperienced

boat that serves as the bar, and hand out cocktails. Garvin's creations taste like rum-flavoured fruit juice; Skeebo - another divernaster, with an Eddie Murphy grin – pours pure rocket fuel. Platters of melt-in-themouth conch fritters are passed round and half-an-hour or so later everyone files into the dining room. Meals are sociably buffet-based and delicious: pasta Bahamian-style, baked with lashings of butter and cheese, lobster, curries, local fish, salads - and chocolate fudge cake with everything. This is not a place to diet.

Jeff Birch owns and runs Small Hope Bay on lines set down by his late father, Dick, who founded the neered the resort diving course. divers can become dangerously "Anybody can dive." Jeff says. "It's just a matter of sharing information in a safe, uncomplicated way."

An hour's flight from Fort Lauderdale or Miami, Small Hope Bay lies off the world's third-largest barrier reef, and is popular with experienced divers. Americans pop down for the weekend, even for just 24 hours. Some novice divers, such as Mike a decorator from Columbus. Ohio, and a fellow yoga trainee - find water to be their natural element. Mike trained on Sunday and by Friday was 185ft down; a depth which brought a sharp intake of breath from diving instructors I spoke to in Britain. There's a risk of nitrogen narcosis

over-confident. But the diversasters are vigilant, and in its 39 years. the lodge has never lost anyone through a diving accident. Mike's dives included wrecks, cav-

erns and one called "Over the Wall", where the sea floor drops 6.000ft. I stuck to the pretty coral gardens, forced by blocked sinuses to stay near the surface. Another beginner, Rolly Miller, 12, quickly lost any nervousness. "He saw sharks, so he was happy," said his mother, Marcia.

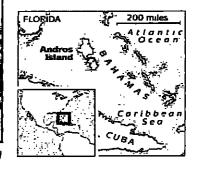
Sue swam down to 50ft, but developed ear problems. A week after we left, she sent me an e-mail from Kentucky. I could almost hear her, saying: "It was wonderful. But ah still have half that ocean in mah head."

DIVE DIARY

THE LONDON International Dive Show takes place today and tomorrow at Olympia. Hammersmith Road, London W14 (0171-385 1200 for details) Tickets cost £5 per adult and £2 for children under 14 and are available by credit card from Dive Show Ltd (0181-977

TO LEARN to scuba-dive in the UK, or for a list of dive centres, contact: British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) on 0151-350 6200 (fax 0151-350 6215, website: www.bsac.com), or the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi) - on 0117 300 7234 or 01179 710 400, or visit the Padi website (www.padi.com).

THE MINIMUM diving age is 12, but Padi has recently introduced a swimming-pool diving course called "Bubblemakers" for children aged 8 upwards.



Rachel Henry paid £367.40 for a flight from Heathrow to Nassau via Miami with Virgin (01293 747747) and Bahamasair, plus \$84 (£52) return via Bahamasair to Andros Town. BA (0345 222111) flies direct to Nassau for £399 if you book this month and travel before 30 June.

A week at Small Hope Bay Lodge (001 242 368 2013/4; e-mail: SHBinfo@SmallHope.com; website: www. SmallHope.com), costs \$1,120 (£700), full board; dive training is free, and each dive costs \$45/\$55. Diving packages are \$1,510 per week for adults; daily rates available.

Jeff Birch will be on the Small Hope Bay Lodge stand (306E) at the London International Dive Show, at Olympia, today and tomorrow.

Freebie of the week

Free travel for culture-lovers Visitors to the English and Scottish capitals can benefit from free bus links to two arts venues. In Edinburgh, visitors to the newly opened Dean Gallery - opposite the Gallery of Modern Art - can get there on a new free bus. It runs every hour from the Portrait Gallery and National Gallery in the city centre. The service is sponsored by the car company BMW, and runs every hour between 10am and 4pm (2pmlpm on Sundays).

SOMETHING TO DECLARE

mangroves. Bliss.

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

Ticket-holders for shows at not, can benefit from a free ride Sadler's Wells in London qualify for free travel on the 19. 38, 73 or 341 buses, from places such as Chelsea, Victoria and Piccadilly. The buses stop right outside the opera and dance venue. If you present your theatre ticket and outward bus ticket at the Box Office, you will be given the cash for both outward and return journeys. All travellers, cultured or

on Britain's most expensive railway. The Heathrow Express operates free of charge between Terminal Four and the central part of the airport, serving Terminals One. Two and Three. The ride to or from Paddington station in London costs £10, but under-16s travel free with adults so long as the grown-ups have bought their tickets in advance.

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Trouble spots: summer charter flight

Plans are being drawn up to limit disruptions for holiday makers bound for destinations, such as Italy. Greece and Turkey, which could be affected by the war on Serbia. With no sign of an early end to Nato action, charter airlines are seeking to minimise delays when the main summer season begins next Saturday.

Russell Ison, from Britannia, said that due to re-routing there may be an extra 10 or 15 minutes added on to journey times, but said departure times from the United Kingdom would be affected.

"At the moment there is a small amount of extra time on flights to Greece. Turkey and

Сургия. The airline, Flying Colours. said its captains may be asked to fly faster to cut delays.

"Flights into Turkey are being delayed by up to 30 minutes, so we are working on flying at increased speeds," the airline said. "It does not seem to have affected Greece."

Air 2000 are also expecting minimal delays of 10 or 20 minutes for flights destined for eastern Mediterranean resorts in Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus, along with destinations such as Israel, and Egypt.

"We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis and will do anything we can to make

sure customers are not de laved," said Air 2000.

In addition to the crisis in Kosovo, the threat of terrorist activity in Turkey is still an issue. Britain's biggest holiday company, Thomson, said that the reduction of customers wanting to travel to Turkey due to recent political threats has been small. "It has affected consumer confidence but the Foreign Office advice is that it is safe to go and customers are reassured when they call in."

There has also been concern that low booking levels for May and June could lead to flights being consolidated, but the leading charter airlines say they have no plans to cancel or combine departures.

Bargain of the week: the secret Caribbean, in style To celebrate its 25th anniversary of flights from Heathrow to the Caribbean, Trinidadbased BWIA (0181-577 1100) has come up with a deal where one person pays the business-class fare, while the other travels for £25. This provides a cut-price route to two verdant and unspoilt destinations, Dominica and Guyana. For a business-class return ticket to Dominica, each passenger would pay £1,126; to Georgetown, Guyana, £1,314 each.

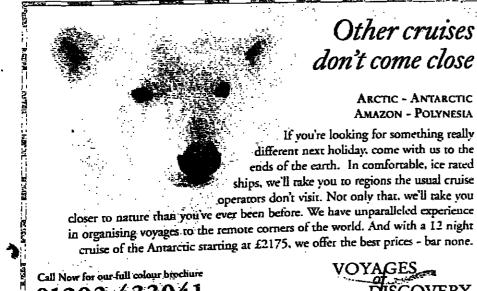
A similar deal applies in economy class on flights to Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia and Tobago; each passenger pays just £309 return. You must book by next Friday. LOUISE PARRATT



JASPER REES

'I'd better put that funny voice on,' said the woman whose strangulated vowels and battered consonants have launched a thousand impersonations

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW

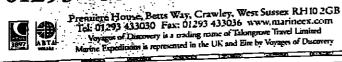


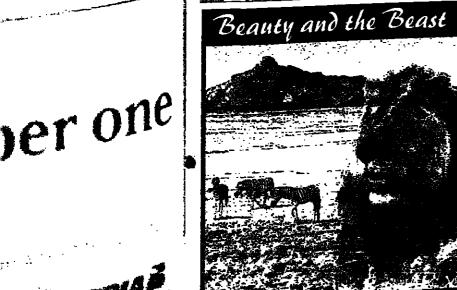
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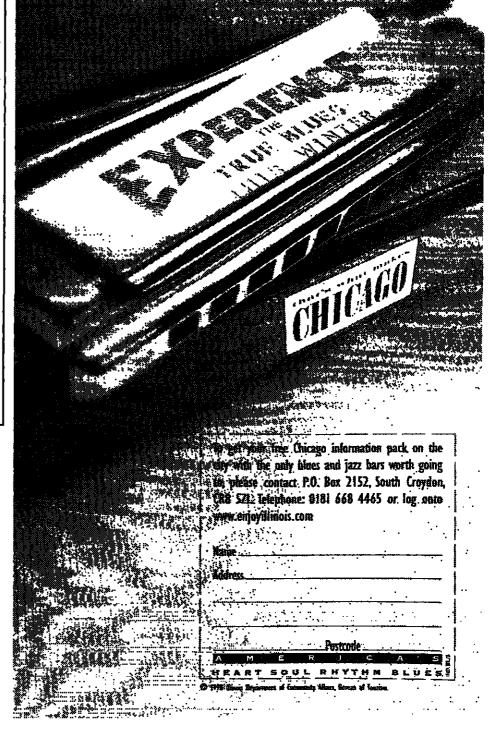




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Four hundred years after the birth of Oliver Cromwell, Donald Hiscock explores his old Cambridgeshire stomping grounds

The anti-hero of Huntingdon

captured in a million holiday snaps every year for no reason beyond the fact that his statue stands outside the Houses of Parliament, Oliver Cromwell doesn't have much in the way of tourism devoted to him. But tomorrow is the 400th anniversary of his birth, and all

that could change. Being responsible for bumping off Charles I and creating



a commonwealth - and thereby becoming the only commoner to be head of the British state - doesn't gain you much respect in a country that is heavy on royalist history. Nor is he fondly remembered in Scotland and Ireland, countries he brutally suppressed. But the Cambridgeshire towns connected with Cromwell are doing their best to raise awareness of the man who was Lord Protector of England for five years, and who cast a long shadow over the course of British history.

The three Fenland towns that claim the closest Cromwell association are Huntingdon, St Ives and Ely. All are close together and all are connected by the slow-moving River Ouse. pmwell's birthplace, Huntgdon, is famous for being the constituency of another, present-day parliamentarian. John Major, it is at one end of the High Street (at the heart of the town's linear layout) that Cromwell was born on 25 April 1599. A mid-19th-century house

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LIBY



A few days exploring the Cromwell triangle will reveal sleepy villages and flat, open landscapes as well as a long-standing history

No one knows how they celebrated the start of the 1600s in Huntingdon, but there are a few taverns still surviving from those years. One of them, the Falcon Inn on Market Hill, was where Cromwell made his Civil War headquarters later in life. at the height of his powers. Just across the street is the old grammar school where Cromwell was educated. The building, which had once been part of the 12th-century Hospital of St John, now houses the Cromwell Museum. Amongst

stands on the site these days.

here you can piece together the story of a man who was born into the gentry, and became a landowner before getting a taste for national politics, military action and notoriety.

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His felt hat and gaiters rest on one display, while the other bits and pieces on view may well have belonged to the great man. The death mask definitely fits the likeness of the portraits that hang on the walls. My sons and I tried to imagine what he would have looked like in the flesh, but we couldn't get be-

yond the hat. It was some hat; you would have bumped into the brim long before shaking its wearer by the hand. For Cromwell's tercente-

nary in 1899 the people of Huntingdon were not prepared to celebrate their famous son by having his statue erected in the town. Neighbouring St Ives, further down the Ouse, put up a statue instead. An unassuming-looking Cromwell, dressed in civilian clothes, stands in the market-place there today, commemorating the six years he

opens out on to a precarious Tea Rooms we accepted the into the next room. waitress' offer of the key to the chapel and got a brief slice of the life of the solitary priest who lived here long ago. He must have been tough, we thought,

The Norris Museum is fur-

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since the place was uncom-

fortably cold and damp.

have-owned-this-maybe ap-1630s. The town has an attrac- houses another small but intive, solid 15th-century stone teresting collection of exhibits, proach. Indeed, the museum bridge by its quayside; on the this time of general local hisdoesn't have a single piece of bridge is a tiny chapel that tory. There's not too much to Cromwell memorabilia take in so there's no risk of balconv over the Ouse. After a aching feet, and the children north-east to Ely. The town's filling breakfast at Connie's aren't forever dragging you striking cathedral, which was once closed down by the Lord

In fact, there are only two

rooms. I enjoyed the fen-skating exhibits and the boys liked the spade that had broken in two while turning the first sod in the construction of the town's by-pass. There's a sense of humour about this place, and spent as a St Ives citizen in the ther up the river. The building none of the Cromwell-mightnence as a tax collector. The audio-visual tour

through the various rooms reveals that, although famously a Puritan, Cromwell led a far from dull life. He was fond of music, drink and hunting, and his table was well laid out with good food - eels, fish and waterfowl included.

If the supposedly haunted room showing a model of Cromwell on his deathbed (a recreation of an event that, in real life, occurred in Whitehall) was too scary for the children to enjoy, then the Civil War room was a hit. Here you can try on costumes from Cromwell's time. Heavy soldiers' helmets, tunics and dresses are available for a bit of historical crossdressing and there is even a full-length mirror for posing.

A few days exploring the Cromwell triangle will reveal sleepy villages, flat, open landscapes and a sense of history stretching back to well before Cromwell's time. The past is out there, buried under the peat in this corner of Cambridgeshire. Oliver Cromwell's past is there too, but, as a nation, I don't think we really know how to celebrate him. Happy birthday, Oliver,

A 17th-century street-market takes place from 10am to 4pm tomorrow in Huntingdon (details, 01480 388249). The Cromwell Museum is at Old Grammar School Walk, Huntingdon, and entrance is free (01480 375830 for opening hours). The Norris Museum is also free and is at The Broadway, St Ives (01480 465101 for opening hours). Oliver Cromwell's House is at 29 St Mary's Street, Ely (01353 662062) and is open daily between 10am and 5.30pm. Adults £2.50, concessions £2.10, family ticket £5. An ecumenical service to commemorate Huntingdon's seen for miles across the flat famous son will take place tomorrow in Hinchingbrooke House, which once belonged to the Cromwell family. For details of all further events, visit the Cromwell 400th anniversary website:

For more on Cromwell, head

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Iran is once again opening up to visitors - including Philippa Goodrich, who spends the Islamic day of leisure finding a cyber-cafe amid the carpets, and Marion Bull, who searches for signs of the poet Omar Khayyam

more than a week before I went out on my own. When I did, within minutes I was surrounded by a huge crowd of men and I found myself fielding questions that ranged from the standard "What do you think of the position of women in Iran?", to the unanswerable (by me, at least) "How do you think we should improve our economy?" and finally, "What do you think of Michael Owen?".

I walked away feeling relieved that I had actually watched the England-Argentina match and seen that goal, when another man came running up behind me. "Tell me," he said, "was Princess Diana murdered or was it an accident?" By then I had been in the country long enough to know that it is best to answer all but the most innocuous questions as neutrally as possible. Iran under President Khatami is beginning to open up again, but it is still wise not to be too free with your opinions in public.

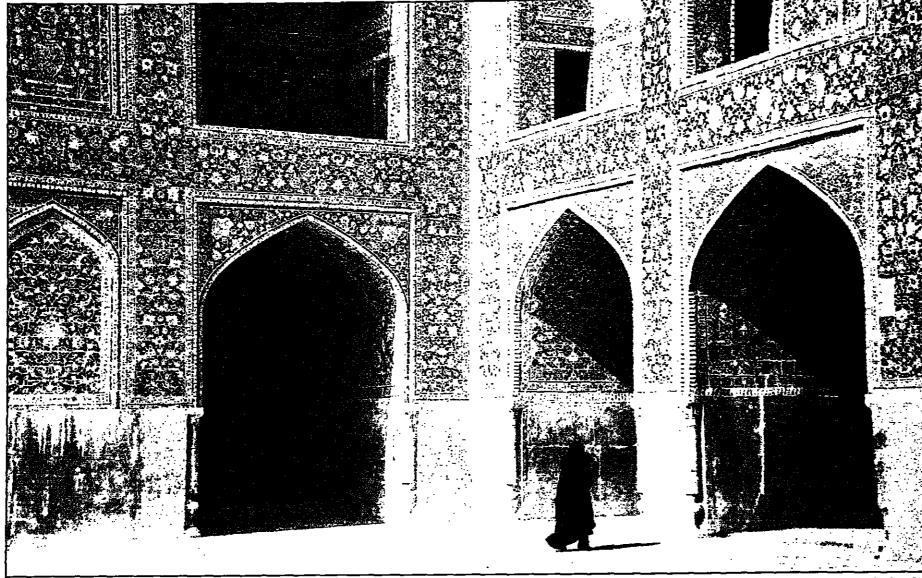
Despite a certain wariness. Iranians are extremely hospitable people and are anxious to see that you have a good time in their country. We had an interesting rather than a wild time in Tehran. I was hoping for a city full of the mysteries of the East, but one look at the hideous Azadi (Freedom) Monument, the first landmark you see after coming out of the airport. put paid to any such notions. In fact, Tehran is a modern, sprawling place which, as we soon discovered, divides physically and socially into the yuppie north and the poorer, more conservative, south.

Most of the city's street trade goes on in the south, and a lot of that happens in the bazzar. I was determined not to go home without a Persian carpet, and we weren't disappointed. It was definitely one of the noisiest and liveliest parts of this sober city a maze of covered. crowded alleyways where you can buy a range of goods including pistachio nuts, pans and carpets.

Our driver had promised to take us to his friend's shop, so we hurried through most of the carpet bazaar until we reached Mr Keshavarz's emporium, tucked beneath the main thoroughfare. His stock was heaped against all four walls; it had come from the deserts of Baluchistan in the east, and from the mountains around Tabriz in the north west of the country. I was just about to launch into a haggling session for a small Bokhara rug when Mr Keshavarz announced grandly that his prices were fixed; the economy is in the doldrums and carpets are an im-

portant source of foreign currency. Northern Tehran lies in the shadow of the Alborz mountains. although you can see their high, bare ridges only on a clear day. Social codes in this part of town aren't quite as strictly observed as they once were, and pizzerias and cafes where boys and girls can meet each other are beginning to spring up.

We spent a good deal of time in Tehran's first cyber-café, which opened a few months ago. The Internet connection was quick, the



Social codes aren't as strictly observed as they once were but Iran's blue-tiled mosques are an impressive reminder of Muslim values

proprietor, the English-speaking Mr Chizre, was friendly, and the change from the sweet, weak black tea that we were offered everywhere else.

northern Tehran to the mountains and the Caspian Sea that lies beyond. We made our expedition on a Friday, and as we drove through the outskirts and into the countryside, the roadsides were crowded with families out for the day eating amid the remains of a late snowfall. Having got the impression that this

yourself is frowned upon, it was a relief to see the children running around and chucking snowballs at Surprisingly, although Iran is a

The main road leads easily out of clerical society, it doesn't seem to be full of people bursting with religious fervour. Our driver reckoned that among the 12 million people in Tehran, only one in six was a regular Friday mosque-goer. The much more appealing alternative for Tehran's younger, well-off crowd is the ski slopes. When we arrived at the resort of Shemshak after a 90minute drive, that's where they all

was a country where enjoying were. But even here, the mullahs' word is law: there are two queues for the ski-lift, with boys to the right and girls to the left, and strictly no fraternisation - not on the lower

If the city life of Tehran becomes oppressive, it is easy to take a plane to somewhere else in the country. We chose Isfahan because, as Iranians are fond of saying. "Isfahan nesf-e jahan": "Isfahan is half the world". Once you are there, you can imagine how in its 17th-century heyday it must have felt exactly like that. The city's most famous architectural sight, the beautiful blue-tiled

mosque of Masjed e Shah. reflects the confidence in his city of its founder, Shah Abbas L

The mosque is open every day. except on Friday mornings when the area is best avoided, as there has been some factional fighting at Friday prayers in the past few months. It stands in an impressive setting, on one of the largest squares in the world, Nagsh-e Jahan, also known as Emam Khomeini Square. There's a lot to see around the square and it's lined with souvenir shops, though not many of them seemed to sell anything worth spending our money on.

The other great attraction of Isfahan lies in the famous old bridges over the river Zayande. They've been a feature of the city for hundreds of years, and these days seem to be the place for Isfahanis to meet and talk and enjoy Friday, their day of leisure.

On the walkway under the Khaju bridge, young men were singing traditional songs, the notes rolling from arch to arch along the length of the bridge. Meanwhile, the clientele in the tea-house at the end of the terrace was indulging in another favourite pastime - smoking the booksh.

The sound of the water bubbling furiously in the bottom of the pipe, with each pull on the sweet apple tobacco, rose even above the clash of pots and pans and chatter. We were given the best seats in the house, with a fantastic view right across the river, and we settled down with our hookah to order

some tea and sugary biscuits. Isfahan is a good place for relaxing. The questions asked here are easier, too. One student we met managed to slip in a quick, "Why does Britain always support dictators?" But, apart from this, the most taxing query came from Mehrdad, the owner of the Shahrzad restaurant where we stopped for lunch. Would we like lamb cooked in the traditional way, or would we like the dish of the day, chicken?



Getting there: Philippa Goodrich paid £455 for a return flight with British Airways

Sundays from Heathrow to Tehran; Iran Air (0171-409 0971) flies the route on the same days. plus Saturdays. Marion Bull paid £380 for a return flight with Iran Air, which at present offers a free side trip (eg to Mashhad). Organised tours: Caravanserai Tours 0181-691 2523 and Jasmin

Tours (0181-675 8886) are among the few companies that offer arrangements in Iran. Red tape: Procuring a visa for independent travel is tricky. First, contact the Visa Section of the Consular Department of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 50 Kensington Court, London W8 5DD (0171-795 4922; calls taken between 2pm and 4pm). On an organised tour, visa requirements will be taken care

of by the operator. Accommodation: Philippa Goodrich paid £53 per night for a suite, including a kitchen, in the Ramtin Hotel in Tehran, and £75 per night for a room at the Laleh International, one of the city's five-star hotels. In Isfahan a Women travellers: Female visitors to Iran are expected to adhere strictly to Iranian cultural norms of dress and behaviour. All parts of the body, except for the hands, feet and face, must be covered when in public, and outer clothing should



from London to Tehran

(0345 222111). BA flies on Tuesdays, Thursdays and

room in the Abbasi Hotel, an old caravanserai, costs £75 per night.

be loose fitting.



Wooed with a pot of tea in the desert

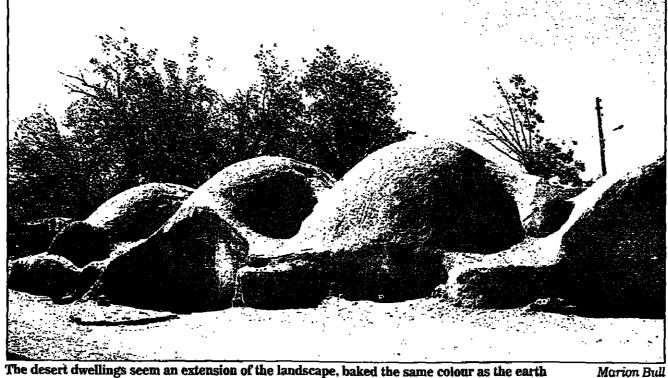
IN A cubicle made of black theatrecurtaining, a pair of hands wander over my breasts. They stop at a bit of bra underwiring, and follow the shape round in concern, as though I were hiding a miniature scythe.

I stand submissively, arms outstretched. draped from head to toe in the full chador without which no woman is allowed into the Holy Shrine of the Imam Reza, in Mashhad. I hold the borrowed chador around me with my teeth, disappointed that it has a tea stain down the front. The female security guards let me through the curtain to a dazzling white courtyard, from where I enter the turquoise maze of endless other courtyards, built over centuries, a mixture of gaudy beauty and calm. For some reason I burst into tears. A man offers me a fig biscuit, and I follow the pilgrims through to a mirrored hall.

I had flown to Mashhad from Tehran to visit the little town of Neishabour, an hour's drive away, birthplace and resting-place of a childhood idol: Omar Khayyam. It was Edward Fitzgerald's translation of the Rubáiyát that captured the imagination of Victorian England; in Persia, Omar - inventor of calendars, hinter at a spherical world as early as the 12th century – had always been celebrated more for his genius in maths and astronomy than for his antiestablishment poetry. It was nevertheless copied by others in Persia, who in turn be-

came famous. The guidebooks warned of an uninteresting town and monument over Omar's tomb, neither of which I found to be true. Neishabour's unpretentious low buildings in a quiet setting, against the snowcovered Alborz mountain range, were refreshing after so much city pollution. Its wispy green birch trees and gardens were

The monument is a remarkable piece of sculpture or even architecture, somewhere



The desert dwellings seem an extension of the landscape, baked the same colour as the earth

tended to be symbolic of: "this inverted Bowl we call the Sky". My only disappointment was that the tomb should stand bleakly on concrete, because Omar was so specific that it should be on grass. Apparently it was moved to this garden from its original burial-place in another part of town, and I wondered what Omar would have thought

about people being charged to go in and look. Living out a fantasy, I searched for an old potter's shop like the one in the Rubaiyat's Kuza Nama, the "Book of Pots"; I found in-crops, an extension of a flat landscape, baked

between a stone jellyfish and what it was in- mer caravanserai, a resting-place for travellers and horses in the centre of town, it displayed pots that were already 1,000 years old when Omar was alive.

The centre-piece of the museum is a model of Neishabour in the 15th century. The originals of the low, hump-backed mud structures, courtyards and covered alleyways it depicts are still standing in the surrounding desert - indeed throughout Iran many of them still inhabited and looking. from a distance, like low-lying rocky outstead a pottery museum. Housed in a for- the same colour as the earth.

I was glad I had made this trip. Outside Neishabour, in rusty green hills, I saw the little village of Darroud, with its tumbling spring on various levels and new shoots of spring greenery everywhere. This small corner was worth a hundred trips around better-known desert towns.

Travelling alone, I saw little of Iranian life. If this had been south-east Turkey or Kurdistan I would undoubtedly have been invited to someone's house for tea. But that is not done here, and I was simply watched with curiosity from a distance. I was not taken for a spy, as some had suggested I would be, understood country.

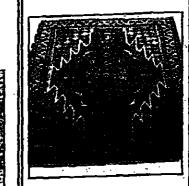
nor was I in the least offended to be ignored at hotel receptions, and to be expected to stand in the background when a man was in front. But the guide who showed me into Mashhad's mosque complex prior to seeing Neishabour ("Your hair!" when the chodor slipped), also took me to see the Hezardastan restaurant for lunch, on the outskirts of Mashhad, a place I could not have found, or even entered, on my own. The dining-area was in a dimly lit, windowless basement; when my eyes adjusted to the light I could see that it was full of beds. A couple languished on cushions, absorbed in each other. Three men sat up in bed eating redspotted rice in a corner and a young boy played a string instrument by the central fountain, oblivious to us all.

Nothing is what it seems. These were not beds, but antique, carpet-covered seats. The dessert we were served with a pot of tea was not a dessert at all, but the first course of a meal of leg of lamb and soup. I said yes when the guide asked me if I was married. I had been told to say I was a housewife, since I was travelling alone. He looked both relieved and disappointed. Omar would have been dismayed that there was no wine to help this scene along, but it was the most sensuous cup of tea I have ever had.

Indeed, nothing is what it seems in Iran, The breast-feeling business by female security guards happened about 10 times, with the departure from Tehran to London being the most fraught. They wore surgical gloves. It was 5am. I was screaming maniacally that

my passport had just been stolen. Re-emerging on the seething-crowd side of the black curtain, I saw my passport being shunted over people's heads. Someone had picked it up after I had dropped it in the rush, and was politely attempting to hand it back. It couldn't have been a more appropriate departing metaphor for this ill-

THE P SHOPPING FORECAST



Journey to the source No. 12: Persian carpets Traditionally bought as luxury items and used as investments to be sold off in times of need, Persian carpets are possibly Iran's most famous export - and understandably so. Since carpets have been produced here for over 2,500 years, the Iranians know a thing or two about making them.

The provenance and design of each carpet is crucial Each region produces characteristic carpets and symbolic patterns - such as lamps to indicate the sacred lamp in Mecca or dogs to ward off evil spirits – are often woven into the wool, cotton or silk. If you want the real thing, buying a good quality carpet in modernday Iran is not as straightforward as it should be, since – due to high demand, cheaper production costs and competition from India and Turkey - many of the carpets are mass-produced by factory machines rather than woven in the traditional way by nomadic weavers and small village workshops.

So, choose carefully. According to the Lonely Planet Guide to Iran (£11,99), buying in an Iranian bazaer can be a real gamble and it's worth reading up before you go. You also need to take into account the fact that you will probably have to pay to get your carpets home -certainly if they take up more space than 12 square metres in total.

If you don't have the patience to seek out the country's small weaving centres, there are plenty of carpet-buying opportunities in Tehran. The Grand Persian Carpet Exhibition and Carpet Conference takes place in the capital each August and is a good place to buy or browse. If you can't afford the carpets here, admire them from afar at the city's famous but fairly small Carpet Museum in Lale Park, off Kargar Street. Alternatively, haggle your way with care through the carpetsellers along Ferdosi Street in Tehran Bazaar. Philippa Goodrich recently paid \$300 (£190) for a good quality 3ft x 4ft carpet If you bought a similarly-

sized handwoven carpet back in the UK at Mansour (56 South Audley Street, London, W1, 0171-499 5602), you could expect to pay upwards of £500 so, buy in Tehran and use the £310 you save to put towards a £380 return flight from London to Tehran with Iran Air (0171-409 0971). That way, you can use the free internal flight that comes with this ticket to go carpet-hunting further

Gadget of the Week: Many people who need to wear glasses are put off diving because of the frustrations of wearing contact lenses underwater or by going without altogether and suffering blurry vision.



If you're prepared to pay, however, you could revolutionise your diving with a prescription lens mask Ocean Leisure (0171-930 5050) has a range of prescription diving masks that start at around £72 (including the popular Tusa Liberator, pictured, that costs £96 with prescription lenses) and most can be fitted while

you wait. RHIANNON BATTEN





48 hours ... in Granada

Fly to Granada and celebrate the Day of the Cross with singing, dancing and drinking. By Rick Williams

Why go now? Apart from the cobait blue skies, temperatures in the high twenties and picturesque peaks of the nearby Sierra Nevada mountain range, the fiesta of the Day of the Cross takes place on 3 May. Religious in origin, the festival has developed into a two-day hedonistic celebration of singing, dancing and drinking silly amounts of fino sherry. Children, households and local organisations erect crosses throughout the city, and each site traditionally includes a halfsmoked cigar, a chair, a glass of fino and a scissor-spiked apple. Most spectacular of all are the thousands of women dressed in

brightly coloured dresses who

throughout the day and night.

The old Arab quarter of the Albaicín sits on

appealing maze of cobbled alleys, delightful

with walled gardens), it was once home to

a mixed community of Christians, Jews and

hundreds of years until 1492, when Isabel

and Ferdinand, the Catholic monarchs who

are buried in the Royal Chapel adjoining the

and gateways, remain. (Incidentally, in these

impress your travelling companion with the

city's cathedral, expelled Jews from Spain

and persecuted Muslims. Many Muslim?

architectural features, such as fountains

Abba revivalist days, you may wish to

revelation that, in Spanish, Ferdinand

a steep hillside facing the Alhambra and

plazas and whitewashed carmens (villas

Muslims. They happily co-existed for

dates back to the 11th century. An

dance swirling sevillanas

Beam down The cheapest way is to fly to Málaga, one of the most competitive destinations in Europe from Britain. Shop around for the lowest fares and most convenient departure airports. For scheduled flights from Gatwick or Heathrow, try British Airways (0345 222111); from Heathrow only, Iberia (0171-830 0011); from Stansted, Go (0845 60 54321); from Luton, Monarch (01582 398333); from East Midlands, British Midland (0870 240 7036); and from

over the UK. From Malaga airport, take the train into the city of Malaga. From there, Granada is two and a half hours away by road. Buses leave every hour from the station on Paseo de los Tilos, around £10 return. Car hire, best booked in advance from Britain, is about E100 a week.

Lunch on the run

people-watch.

Get your bearings

warter of cobbled

Eat where the locals eat with a trip to the

the Albaicín. Basking in the southern

plaza of San Miguel Bajo (3 at the top of

sunshine, the four restaurants here vie with

each other, offering leisurely Spanish-style

lunches and plenty of opportunity to sit and

Granada is a fairly compact place. If you

arrive from Málaga at the bus station on the

Carretera de Jaen – in the modern suburbs –

take a 10-minute taxi journey up to Plaza

Nueva 1 at the beginning of the River Darro

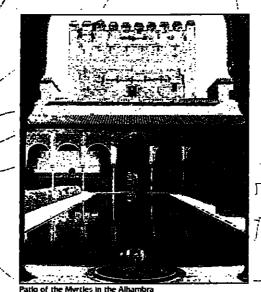
valley. On one hillside is the Albalcin, the old

whitewashed carmens, on the other, the

Liverpool, easyJet (0870 6 000 000). The

There are also dozens of charters from all

best fare we have found is £120 on Go.

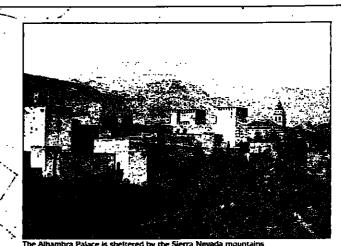


See in the dawn

ALBAICIN ;

Demure dinner The Mirador de Morayma 🕄 (Pianista Carrillo 2, 00 34 958 22 82 90) is a beautiful old carmen in the Albaicin looking across to the Alhambra which, lit up at night, is even more magical. It is also one of the best restaurants in Granada and serves recipes from the local area. Try the Tortilla Sacromonte. which dates back to the years of hunger under Franco in the Fifties, and is made from pig's testicles and brains. It's very tasty. Honest.

icing on the cake "Give him alms woman as there is no greater sorrow in life than to be blind in Granada." This appeal for clemency, inscribed on one of the walls of the Alhambra, is as true today as it ever was. The palace, with its backdrop of icingsugar-topped mountains, makes for one of the most beautiful views in the world. And the best place to see it is from the Mirador de San Nicolás 🕑 at sunset. If you're lucky, the mountains will turn pink and you'll be left humbled by an exquisite marriage of man and nature.



SACROMONTE

Take a ride

After an evening of tapas and drinks, hunt down the flamenco cave bars in the Sacromonte valley. It can be a bit touristy. but it is worth the effort. Best of all is El Nino del Almendra (1) on the Calle del Mulada: de Dona Sancha near San Miguel Bajo. It's a tiny, semi-private flamenco club for locals. Knock on the door and smile and you'll get to see some superlative guitar playing and dancing.

donkey "taxi" is one of the most enjoyable ways to see the sights of the old city. The "rank" 5 is at the far end of the Paseo del Padre Manjón (00 34 958 22 83 69). An hour costs around £5. But, if you have a car, gun it up to the top of the Sierra Nevada. The highest road in Europe rises 2.500m in about 30km, but a barrier stops you at about 3,100m to protect the top of the mountain from too many vehicles.

For luxury and a setting without equal, the

It might remind you of the kind of beach

holidays you'd rather not experience, but a

GENERALIFE

Cultural afternoon Busy it might be, but you really shouldn't miss the Alhambra, 🕡 open every day from 8.30am to 8pm, and costing about £5 to visit. From the outside, its burnished red walls aren't much to look at, but they reflect the symbolic importance of the inner" for its Muslim architects. Within are exquisite patios and courtyards, decorated with arabesques and linked by an ingenious system of waterways. Equally impressive are the adjoining Generalife gardens and

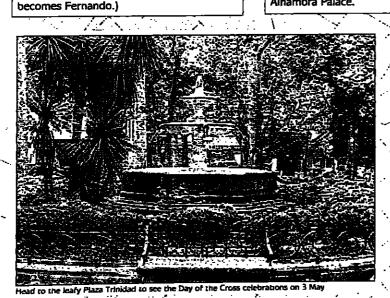
the Winter Palace, a mass of

verdant vegetation.

Parador Nacional San Francisco ((Real de la Alhambra, 00 34 958 22 14 6), actually in the grounds of the Alhambra, is unbeatable, although the Alhambra Palace (Pena Partida 2, 00 34 958 22 14 68) is flashier. There are plenty of good-value pensiones around Plaza Nueva and Cuesta de Gomerez, but for something a little more offbeat, try the luxurious cave

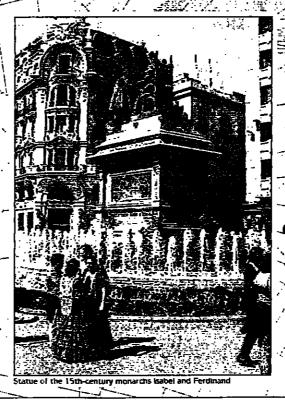
Check in

accommodation in the old gypsy quarter of Sacromonte: Cuevas el Abanico (2) (00 34 958 22 61 99). If you don't speak Spanish, book through the Internet: granadainfo.com/abanico/english.htm



An aperitif

If you fancy a tipple, there are two distinct options. The Calderería Nueva off Plaza Nueva is a cobbled alleyway, lined with Moorish tea shops, which captures perfectly the fusion of Western and Muslim culture that so characterises Granada. Alfaguara and Dar Ziryab are particularly good. Alternatively, you could bar-hop around the city, drinking and eating tapas. Unlike most of Spain, the tapas are still free in Granada. Try Bodegas Castaneda (9) on Calle Almireceros and Casa Julio (1) on Calle Hermosa.



GLOBAL AGENDA

Brescia and Bergamo The Brescia and Bergamo Piano Festival was created in 1964 as a tribute to the pianist Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, who was born in Brescia. Uniting the strong musical traditions of these two towns, the festival encourages its invited artists to collaborate and experiment in their interpretation of the programme, which is built around a different author, historical event or musical form each year. Tomorrow's opening concert, "Il Pianoforte di Schumann", performed by the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala and conducted by Myung-Whun Chung with Stanislav Bunin on piano, will celebrate the festival's 35th anniversary. Ivo Pogorelich, Andras Schiff and Gerhard Oppitz will also perform during the festival. Various venues, Brescia (00 39 030 44569) and Bergamo (00 39 035 240140), Italy; from tomorrow until 11 June, L35,000-L150,000

Amsterdam The whole of The Netherlands will be celebrating Queen Beatrix's birthday on Friday, but the annual festivities in Amsterdam will take some beating, with thousands of people pouring into the city to



Tour Horsemen of the Apocalypse' by Dürer

join in the fun. From early morning, when the first flea markets start, until well into the night, when block parties are in full swing, the canals are packed with partygoer-laden boats and concert halls are throbbing with music, madness and mayhem. Various locations throughout Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Friday, free

Marseilles The International Festival of Contemporary Music is much more than its name suggests. As well as offering a programme of modern sounds - provided by an international line-up - it

features exhibitions of contemporary art, dance performances, film screenings and conferences, and takes place in some fascinating indoor and outdoor venues. This year the focus is on percussion, and will feature music by the Italian composer Salvatore Sciarrino and the Greek musical theatre specialist Georges Aperghis. Also planned for the festival is a masterclass in orchestral direction with Lorraine Vaillancourt and the New Modern Ensemble of Montréal. Various venues. Marseilles. France (00 33 49139 2900); from Friday until 12 May. Ff40-Ff70

Basei An exhibition of the early works of well-known artists, "When Artists Were Young", gives a fascinating insight into the development of their styles. The featured artists date from Albrecht Dürer right up to Jackson Pollock and Donald Judd, and the chronological tracing of their work reveals how their initial stabs at creativity are often different to the paintings and sculptures for which they became famous Basel Kunstmuseum, 16 St Alban-Groben, Basel, Switzerland (00 41 61 206 6262);

until 21 June, SF7 SHARON GETHINGS



picturesque. However, the Clarence is located on none of the above. In fact, when you approach it, the hotel looks unpromising, on a dusty, busy road, beside an unphotogenic stretch of the river Liffey. The building is austere by any standards and, when you go into reception, the wood panelling gives things a boarding-school feel. But once you're checked in, check out the

let a warm glow settle over you. The bedrooms are peaceful and perfect for a weekend bolthole, but it's in the communal rooms that the Clarence shines. The Octagon Bar is ideal for that first Guinness, the Study for a fireside reading session. The oddly named Tea Room is a cavernous restaurant, but after the wine's started flowing and fantastic huge portions of hearty Irish food has been consumed, it sud-

beautiful design details that the

new owners created in 1996 and

denly feels quite cosy. The Clarence manages that tricky combination, calm and cool, and it would be impossible to talk about the hotel without mentioning one of its owners,



Bono of U2. The Clarence has true rock'n'roll credentials, and the penthouse suite is ideal for recovering superstars, with a piano, a rooftop Jacuzzi, cream suede sofas and an awesome bed. The staff are fantastically discreet so no, they won't tell you everyone famous who's stayed there, but anyone with taste probably has.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION The Clarence is at 6-8 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland (tel: 00 353 1670 9000, fax: 353 1670 7800) Transport: Dublin is mostly walkable, and the Clarence is well placed for the sights. If you're infirm or can't be bothered to walk, taxis are a better bet than the (very crowded) buses. Time to airport: About 40 min-

utes, and there are plenty of taxis available.

ARE YOU LYING **COMFORTABLY?** An haute couture version of a padded cell, the rooms are plain and simple, with cream walls and heavy curtains. The ecclesiastical theme is pushed with deep crimson furnishings and monk's-

cell-like lights. The sinning's up to you. And, the penthouse suite is possibly the grooviest in Europe. Beds: Deep and crisp and even, with lots of fluffy pillows, perfect for lazing in until at least midday.

Very unmonastic. Freebies: All the usual luxury unguents in the bathroom, with those cute towelling slippers that surely are meant to be taken home (the idea of recycling them

is too, well, unhygienic). Temperature: As you like, and unlike its New York "design" equivalents, in this hotel you can open the windows (some give on to tiny balconies). Bathroom: The bathroom has his nhers basins and a very flattering mirror. Relax in the bath or get blasted by the power-

shower instead. KEEPING IN TOUCH TV: Yes, and it has the full range of channels you never watch at home but suddenly find compelling in a hotel (CNN, Discovery...). Radio: Yes, but if you're in the penthouse, a state-of-the-art hi-fi system awaits, with a hip selection of CDs. Phone/fax/Internet: Hey, politicians hold press conferences on the roof. It's safe to say they are well equipped, technowise.

THE BOTTOM LINE A "superior" (ie standard) room is Ir£180 (£151) per night; a two-bedroomed suite is Ir£550 (£462). The penthouse suite is Ir£1.450 (£1,218), but a small pop combo could fit in it. Full Irish breakfast is Ir£14 (£12) per person, and you'll be too full to eat for several hours after that. Dinner for two with wine in the Tea Room costs about Ir£60 (£50).

LISA MARKWELL

THE WEEKEND REVIEW

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travelling, music, pubs. cm-ema, seeks male, similar

age, 5'4" and above, 2 30, for friendship and romance, 25'05'5

DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER?

5'4" and above, 24-

Attractive, generously pro-portioned woman, 40s, with a generous heart to match.

Hentordshire. 25999 BROWN-EYED GIRL Sensational, black single

mum, student, 5'7", enjoys

restrion shows, cattoring, cinemas, shopping, hights in, travelling back to the Canbbean, seeks honest, good-looking, caring, loving guy, 20-33, black/white, for long lasting relationship. #6185

BEWITCHING WOMAN

With style and a wicked

smile, seeks warm, with

wise, renascence man, 40-50, expenenced in rescu-ing workaholics and admir-

ing women who slay their own dragons. Middlesex

Canng, genuine, loving lady, 59, 411". GSOH, N.S. medium build, enjoys line

dancing, swimming, walk-ing, meeting people, seeks genuine gentleman, 60-65,

for friendship, companion-ship, possible relationship

woman, just back from. Africa, into life's adven-

needs tall, happy, confi

CELTIC DREAMING

Fair-skinned, blue-eyed redhead, 36, medium

height, curvaceous, into

yoga, laughter, seeks like

arts, music, literature.

dem. witty independent. liberal thinker to prove her

tures, still clinging perilous-ly to notion, no need to set-tle for less than love.

<u> 22 6058</u>

HOLDING OUT

based. 275992

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL

lashion shows, dancing.

nsitive, affection-



TEL: 0171 293 2222

Attractive, slim, blonde theatre, eating out, live music, seeks fun-loving easygoing, intelligent, pro-tessional male, 36-45. Could previous callers please call again. 125933 GET IT TOGETHER Oute extrovert female, 37,

5'5", enjoys cinema, eat-ing out, travel and life in general, seeks tall male. 35-45, N/S, who is nice, honest and good fun, tor inendship and happiness ATTRACTIVE FEISTY DOCTOR Divorced single mum, 44, erested in current affairs, travel, outdoor pursurs, seeks humorous, intelligent male, N/S, for

friendship, possibly more. Gloucestershire area. FOR YOU Petite, divorced, profes sional female, 54, smoker, with dog and cat, varied interests including music Are you genuine too? As looking to keep company? Surrey, 226416 GORGEOUS &

Arty woman, (no really!), seeks professional man, for some good laughs. Croydon/London. NORTH WALES BASED Me: slim, professional

blonde, 39. enjoys arts countryside, having tun, seeks you: confident, active, intelligent, sponta neous male, 37-45. Call LIVE A LITTLE! Charming, witty, intelligent female, N/S, full of surprises with a zest for life

with same enthusiasm, elly addicts need not apply N London/Hertfordchine or surrounding <u>areas. 256</u>392 DANCE OF OPTIMISM Come dance with me. ! need a witness to my life Attractive, intelligent, black female, seeks like-minded

man, 40-50 any nationality, to talk to, laugh, share nth and understand. _cadoa, 225386 SUCCESSFUL SINGLE If you re an unattached male, 30s, anractive, creatrizand intelligent, into music, clubs, conversa tion, travel, theatre, then

would like to hear from rou. 125778 CHRISTIAN Confident female, 32, relaxed, non-judgemental, socially aware, eclectic interests, enjoys life's simple pleasures, people and conversation, is seeking

triendship, with mental and emotional intimacy. 26225 CALLING THE UNIVERSE

Outet smile, sharp mind, gentle touch, sunny laugh-ter. Female, 40s. is seek-ing a real man, 45-80, for special magic. London area. 1276335<u>5</u> WARMTH & KINDNESS Sought and given by god-dess, also interested in walks, theatre, music, art

and laughing in bed. Attractive, professional, 42. London based, though #634<u>1</u> UNFULFILLED ROMANTIC

Points, green-eyed, sensitive artist, loves country-side, gardening and all things living, looking for passionate friendship. seeks true soul mate, 40s. with similar interests, to share, explore and enjoy. sional, independent

Professiones, mure per con-ternale, 43, intelligent, humorous, outgoing, seeks sensitive, thoughtful, acventurous male. West Midlands. 126224

SIMPLY THE BEST Attractive, bright, vivacious female, 47, seeks good-looking, solvent, easygoing male, for fun, friend-sha and serialistics. ship and socialising. South Yorks area. #6417 LEICESTER AREA

Attractive, professions Hindu temale, 28, 5'8' sensitive, caring, romantic, confident and strongwilled, with down-to-earth personality, varied intereliable, emotionally mature Indian Hindu male. ossible commitment.

SOMERSET FEMALE Dark-haired, dark-eyed female, 31, seeks charis bright male, who doesn't mind lying about how we met. \$5942 matic solvent slimmish LEEDS BASED Professional female 28. likes travel, photography, food, wine, beer, flowing

conversation, looking for male with GSOH, who loves life. 256423 NEW VOYAGE Attractive, slim woman, ex-nursing sister, enjoys country life, sailing, music, seeking interesting, active unpretentious, emotionally available, professional male, 50-60, ideally in the ast of England, 12:6338

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL Caring, genuine, loving lady, 59, 4111, GSOH. N/S, medium build, enjoys line dancing, swimm walking, meeting people seeks genuine gentleman. 60-65, for friendship, comhip, possible relaionship. 26290 FUN-LOVING EX-MODEL Creative, slim female, is seeking a fit male, aged 30-40, for romance. Scotland, 226266 SEEKS SOUL MATE

Attractive, kvely, fun, intelli-gent, loving female, with many interests, seeks simir man, late 30s-early 40s. for companionship, laughs. and loving, long-term rela-IN SEARCH OF DOBDIN Pepre, vrzacous, attractive anole mother, early 40s. but gri at heart, well-edu cated read travelled, with optimism, seeking an hon-

to share the usual cultural country, London \$6272 Call Now! To respond to any Voice Personals' ad call

SEEKING SCORPIO

long-lasting relationship.

classical music, travel, social science, seeking

uine, sensible, profess male, 45-50, for happy

relationship. 126276 CELTIC LASS

more. 26284

attractive, successful, ger

FUROPEAN

CONNECTION

..31, 55". blonde green, SW London, professional enjoys cooking, staying in, tennis, holidays, weekends away, seeks male 30-40, tall, professional, intelli-gent, to make her laugh 0897 554 555)ನಿಸಿದ್ದಾನಿ ಮುಡಿಸುತ್ತದ# BELLE IN BELFAST

arts, travel, keep-fit, seeks tall, honest, sincere male. ing a warm, caring and successful gentleman, for a tor triendship. 25989 LIVE LIFE TO THE MAX Fun-loving, slightly mad, intelligent, down-to-earth female, 35, 5'9", blonde/ Attractive, slim, indepen-dent, professional brunette, petite, into the arts, opera, green, enjoys shopping. swimming, squash, set male, 35-40, 5'9" and CHRISTIAN LADY

CHRISTIAN LADY
Single, 33, N/S, medium
build, nonest, kind-hearted,
loves animals, wildlife,
countryside/coast, seeks
Christian gent, 30-45,
friendship, leading to
romance, 356055
HAPPY OPTIMIST
Creative, independent, fairhaired, blue-eyed, fairly fit
female, 33, Into hun,
friends, writing, adventur-CELTIC LASS
Single Irish female, travel
prolessional, very down-toearth, is seeking a tall,
dark male, N/S, to enjoy
classical music, the great outdoors, and much, much ATTRACTIVE & CLASSY Very attractive, slim temale, 49, 5'6", dark hair, intelligent, interesting, enjoys good food/wine and male company, is seeking a successful, professional male, aged 47-56, who is strong but gentie. 126282

LUST FOR LIFE Attractive, artistic, outgo-ing, fun-loving, professional lady, sim, blonde, interestarea. 125968 THE SAME OLD SCENE ed in the arts, good food and wine, dancing, holi-Engaging, warm, vibrant, friendly female, late 30s. days, seeking attractive. quality and deep into per-sonality, interested in cine sensitive, kind, intelligent well-educated, profession ma, seeks male, 35-40, for man. 45-55. to share inter London area. 186180 ests. London. 176289

VEGETARIAN VACANCY QUIRKY HUMOUR? Best friend wanted for Vegetanan? Questioning? vegetarian: Cuestionia vegetarian: Reen photographer? Would you like to meet similar, in tail, slimmish, grounded, very young, 40-something female? In East Sussex happy outgoing, profes-sional lady, 50s, into spin-tual grow, theatre, films, gardering, good compa would suit intelligent, sensitive, vegelanan male. area prelerably. 336155 Opportunities for promo-**ADVENTUROUS** tion. Suffolk. 126101 Intelligent, good-looking female, brown hair/eyes, 24, 54, likes horse nding DELICIOUS

BRUNETTE. with poise and smoulder. seeks one very fabulous. tall, charismatic, successful man, 35-45, to work her title

\$2.20

MATE FOR LIFE Asian male, 43, seek smart, kind, educated understanding, good-look ing temale, any religion/caste, for reliable. mustworthy relationship MEDITERRANEAN MALE

Attractive male, 33, loving canno, with varied inter-ests, which includes, travattractive temale, 20-45. for long-term relationship 156424

create a

YOUNG AT HEART Imelligent, easygon male. 39 but feels 21, into music, travel, going out, stayıng in, is seeking a sımılar female, for lun. triendship and romance Yorkshire or N England.

> RED HAIR. BLUE EYES Young, fit male, 20s, seeks tattooed woman, for tun and friendship Genuine replies only please 256335

DOWN-TO-EARTH PRINCE Intelligent male, late 30s, easygoing, GSOH, enjoys staying in going out, cooking, music, cinema, meane, seeks female, for

£6222 STILL SEEKING... .that elusive. music-loving, interesting, kindred spirit. Graduate genti 57. seeks lady under 58, to share life's many plea-

possible relationship.

sures, in a long-term relabonship, Bristol. 255280

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BE SENSIBLE: We suggest that the first meeting atways be held in a public place and that you do not reveal your hull care, address or home phone number until you are combatable doing so.



driver, seeks lady pas .co-dover under 50 N/S. Driver, 5'6". unat nded man, 32-40. Herts tached, really quite nice, wide interests. For friend-GREGARIOUS FEMALE... ship, perhaps more. Cambridge area. 126398 white lies Tall, fit red-haired man. 27. enjoys outdoors, nature, travel, lood, music, seeks

OPTIMISTIC PROFESSIONAL..

...45. 6', slim, happy, posi-tive autlook, but life has

come unravelled, seeking someone to be a part of

putting it back logether. N Essex/Suflolk. All calls

answered. 156413

similar female, age unim-portant, to share the good things with SW England MARGINALLY Pretentious, opinionated man, 43, hairy, hooknosed, beanpole, with attr-tude, seeks ravishing, independent, creative god-dess, to share a bit of life. Solvent, single, sane. Sussex. \$6395

above, with similar inter-ests, for Itiendship at first.

friends, writing, adventur-ous travel, the arts, seeks fike-minded male, 30-40. London based. \$55997 ATTRACTIVE & SLIM Brown-eyed female, 40, many arts-based interests, seeks handsome male, 35-45, with GSOH, for friendationship. London

CELTIC LADY SOUGHT

Mid-30s good body, to be wined and dined, by hand-some nost, 6:21 25:5421

Ring me now! I'm alone in London and seeking a

stulpted to love and care tor \$26164

mish, N.S. outgoing, spon-taneous romantic, loves

sport cycing, walks, arts.

socialising, seeks creative

female, on similar wave-

relationship Twickentram

Sim. professional Asian male: 34. enjoys arts. cin-

bright, fun-loving femal

FREE TICKETS!

for mendship plus. London area. 256217

Tall, canng male, young 40, classical music jour-nalist, seeks lively, intelli-

gent girl, 20s, for concerts.

opera, romance. 12:6218

Tall, dark, good-looking male, 36, GSOH, enjoys music, going out, clubbing, travel, seeks fun-loving.

optimistic and attractive

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iemale. 156220

HANDSOME DEVIL

exhibitions, travel and

SOUL MATE SEARCH

Attractive architect, 30s.

VERY URGENT...

plain Jane, 30s well

MARGINALLY ON OFFER Tall attractive Englishman. ECCENTRIC seeks sensitive, uncompli-cated educated, black pirifriend for 1-2-1 :ela-Pretenticus, opinionated male, 43, beanpole, with athticle, seeks ray sting, ionship 26104 ndependent, srezive got dess, to share a bit of ite with. Solvent, single, same, SENSITIVE

Male 57° dark brows. sim build Japanese national, 17 angineer, likes cubs bars, clubs, good conversation films, music, olaying guitar, seeks sen-sitive canno, independent female similar age. CAMBRIDGE ACADEMIC35, with much to learn

seeks soul mate, to share passion for theatre, music

Any Queries? ドマン いんじゅん あっる ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ತಗ್ಗಳ *ಪ*ರಕ್ಷನ್ ಕಥೆ ರುತ Voice Personars, service, clease call FFEE on 0800 216 351

FOREVER OPTIMISTIC Male, 51, with love of life. likes arts, cinema, theatre. travel, good food, is seek-ing a lady, for relationship and who knows what?

CEREBRAL MALE. ...45. seeking a bookish soul mate, with passion. who's imo travel, five music and good wine. London

area. 1276151

sure

Palace

Sussex. 126223 BRIGHTON/LONDON Male, with interest in pho regraphy, counselling, cul-tural studies, foreign tray-

eis awars of saxuai coiltics, sensitive but not sub missive, teli, simi and fit. seeks new temale filend. 2540€ HILL OF SEANS Young-locking student counsellor aged 34, 5'3', easygoing, caring, thought-

colour unimportant, with or without children, for possi-

ble relationship. 25277

friendship with an attrac-tive intelligent woman. 28179 ful and humorous, enjoys ilms, eating out and relax-NO FURTHER ing with friends, is seeling Attractive, professional female, to eniov male. 34. no tes, emoys Newcastle area, 25237 AFRICAN-AMERICAN

sports, socialising, seeking similar, dynamic, petite, N.S temale for friendship relationship. Male, S1, likes music. sport, travel, seeks inde-Cambridgeshire, 25998 pendent lady, over 25, to share lun times, maybe IDEAS TURN ME ON Sny. mourably romantic more. 25283 BLACK & GENTLE teacher, 42, seeks tactile, sensual lady, for long-term Black inerature graduate.
NS, GSOH, loves the arts.
travel and good tood, seeks
positive, professional
woman, 29-38, race and

wtere. #16267

elationship. Any area. 250154 FIRST-TIME ADVERT Black male, 20s, 6', slim build, outgoing, fun-loving, very romantic, into the arts, dance, modelling, socialis-ing, living life, seeks openrace, for serious relation ship, maybe more. 1276170

ELOQUENT BUT SOMETIMES... ...inaniculate male gradu-ate, 39, 6'2', enjoys con-versation, red wine, films, seeks hedonistic female, to share interests. Gloucs. 25987

GOOD-LOOKING TEACHER... ...36, 6'5", enjoys pubs, soorts, art. films, seeks lady, for friendship, and fun. 225994 YOUNG TALL

HANDSOME Good-looking, professiona mate. likes music. politics, nights invout, seeks friendly, easygoing woman, for fun, friendship and enjoying life. Norwich. 2:6102

HOPELESS ROMANTIC Tall, stim, intelligent man, 40, enjoys sports, politics, music, socially aware. GSOH, seeks slim, attractive lady, 30-45, to care for.

PLEASE REPLY

ALPHA BETTA CURI CULUM

employed businesso

Tall, dark, handsome, self-

24-32 London, #5984

CURI CUT.UM

Araki, burns and eyes,
Chekhov, dares, erotic art,
first takes, girlishmess,
humour, ideas, johrt, kindness, love, lust and literature, music, Never-Never
land, open, passion, quiet,
respect, serendipty, truth,
to polytomous want. K.

p, voluptuous, want, x,

yes, zest for life, how bout u? 256166

READ THIS CAREFULLY

Professional guy, 40s, 5'1", Professional guy, 40s, 5'1", dark/brown, atheric, well-buit, N/S, GSOH, seeks lady, under 40, N/S, GSOH, for friendship initial-

y, hopefully lasting love.

ENIGMATIC MALE

ATTRACTIVE

andon/surround 176098

30s, seeks intelligent, witty woman, to share laughs,

wine, blues, good times and more. North West.

South Wales. #5986 Bon't Forget! CULTURE VULTURE Place your own Voice Personals' ad FREE on Artist academic, polyglot eclectic, unpretentious, left ish, sensitive, non rich, 46. 0800 216 351 5'9", presentable, seeks

BLACK MALE

Articulate, conscious and

a temale partner who has

şimilər attributes. 126162

caring male, 54, is seeking

SOUL MATE SEARCH elegant lady. South London/Surrey/North East Tall, attractive, hard-work Ireland. 256100 ing male. 25, into antiques and property renovation, seeking intelligent female company, for friendship and relationship. \$5275 DESPERATE

Emotionally distorted by previous relationships.
Male, 50s, believes in excerse, into reading, sport, cycling, is seeking in the promise a quarient or germinal contents. female, any age, for friend-ship first, then who knows? \$26285

DIVORCED MALE, 50 Affectionate, professional male, seeks temale, any age, to share life with. UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE Cosmopolitan male, 41, 6', sim, fit, likes intellectual stati. In: tides intellectual challenges and laughter, is seeking a very slim, attractive partner, aged 28-35. Who's discerning and ready for adventurous future. South West. 126279

it's In the stars Two caring, charismatic, cancerian males, 34/33, 5':0" 5', blue and creen eyes, brown hair and rea-sonably handsome, enjoy pubs, cinema, theatre, good food, are seeking two inteligent, attractive,

WITTY DOCTOR Single male 28, seeks suitable, single woman, similar age, sarcastic and faisty if 30. 226271 sible. London. \$26095 BATH MALE MATURE Quiet male, 41, N/S, own fat, stightly disabled, into others, aviation, meals out, computing, seeking

& CHARISMATIC Sporty black male, seeki sophisticated female, to share romantic pursuits of lady, up to 45, for friend ship, evenings out and a special kind. 276043 паубе поге. **25**6270 LEFTIST FRANCOPHILE Male library clerk, 33, failed Cayonaed, aquanan male teamer, young 55, more non than wealthy, enjoys

writer, gentle and witty, undogmatic leftist, likes pubs, walks, cycling, food, aci canversation, swim conversation, seeks com passion, thoughtful, nonming, chess, gardening, wine, trave!, seeks blonde, sum lady, 30+. NE or anyationship. Oxon/London/ North East, 126094 SUNNY OUTLOOK FROM OUT OF NOWHERE.. essygoing nature, finds meres in many aspects of ite, would like to share

Good-looking, professional male, 31, 510, seeks skin ny:big build bubbly female; any age/colour. Very large women also most well come. Looks unimportar GSOH essential. If you leave a message i promise to get back to you. 226174

ROMANTIC Protessional male, 35, enjoys travel, good conversation, sports, arts, seeks like-minded, attractive, pro based 275990 THIS IS NO YOLK...
London male, 33, seeks female, to share left over Easter egg. Fans of Celine Dion, rap music or anyone with an IQ lower than room

temperature need not apply. 256168 HAPPY GUY SEEKS... Professional male, 36, tall, dark, caring, with many interests, seeks woman, 25-40, for friendship. Oxon/Bucks/N Hants. ∡6000

aby Queries? If you should have any questions about any aspects of our fee Personaist service miss: call FREE on 0800 216 351

VERY URGENT Ring me now, I'm alone in London and seek plain Jane, 30s, but well-sculptured, to love and care for. PERSONALITY COUNTS Fun, thoughtful sensitive, caring male teacher, 27, seeks kind, caring female

Oriental lady most wel-

come. London. 226157

You

musi

(18)

seekin9 men

LONDON AREA Black male, 26, 58", 13 stone medium build, with ates, fun-loving, interesting job, loves trav socialising, meals of socialising, meals out, cin-ema, seeks easygoing, fun, intelligent white male, bly over 58". GSOH, to generally enion life, 13:63 MUSIC LOVER

Graduate, protessional, male, 51, likes classical music, historic houses, books, history, the arts, seeks similar male, 40-50, for friendship, possible 1-2-Midlands area. 116175

Call Now! 89865 547 142 Cade cost it per retrate at the service

WANTED: TTRACTIVE GUY Gay professional male. 25, seeks similar man, 18+, for nights in/out, for fun and triendship. Cardiff area. x 6096 HI THERE

HI THERE! Asian male, 23, 58", dark/brown, sâm, attractive, into reading, socialising, theatre, seeks similar man, non-scene, for frendship, possibly more. Wolves/Staffs. 25593 FUTURE . FRIENDSHIP

FRIENDSHIP
Gay male, 28, handsome,
masculine, warm, gentie,
into country houses, gardering, good food, classical music, seeks presentable mature thend,
40+, London/Home
Counties #55088



Attractive, intelligent, or going female, 28, 54. going remaie, 20, 3 4, anjoy sport, socialising, cinema, clubs, travelling, seeking female, similar interests for friendship, possible reationship, Call me. 35414. #8414 OUTGOING

Caring, outgoing temele 5'4", with a great persor ity, is seeking a mature, caring female, 23-34, Stockton or Middlesbrough area, 13 6412 POSSIBLE PUTUR Female, 33, 5'6', slin ed, enjoys going out,

atternative, LIFESTYLE

YOU ARE FEMALE. ...fundamentally unsub-missive, 40-50ish, aggre sively successful (men aivery successful (man) find you scary), yet your after ego screams for influ-ential pleasures, for cre-ative dominant, unposses-sive, truly gentle man. Miclands, 176390 TRANS MALE

Athletic male, mid-30s, seeking couples who are looking for that title bit extra, for healthy, adventurous, tun times together.

seking long-term, monogamous relationships may advertise in Voice Personals*. We suggest that acts comain a self-description, age range, lifestyle, and avocations. Ade containing so utality explicit or areasomical language will not be accepted. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any ad for any interest. Ade containing so utality explicit or areasomical language will not be accepted. We reserve the right to refuse a first meeting always be related a place and that you do not reveal your full reams, or income phone number, used occurrently as a result framework as a result framework. The advertisement or recorded message and to first meeting always to be related by the publishing or recorded message and to relate a result framework. The advertises are result framework in all costs, expensions including recording including recording allocated by the publishes and descriptions or reasonable socious to select including recording the control of the relationship and the personable socious to select including recording the publishes and descriptions or reasonable socious to select including recording the publishes and descriptions or reasonable socious to select including recording the publishes and descriptions or reasonable socious to select in a public part of the resonable of t Chat Lines Chat Lines

Personal

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We are a young professional couple longing for a child. The only way that we can have a baby is through egg donation.

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triendship first. 276321

Normal, everyday male, 43, 5'6", likes bowling, nusic, cinema, eating out, driving, seeks honest, female, GSOH, for long-term, loving relationship. #6294_ THE LONELINESS OF...

....the long distance runner. Interesting, unconventional, intelligent, happy, culturally aware, 40s man, likes running, sport, clinema, music, seeks slim, fit, submissive temale, for happiness. Oxford. 226226 HI, I'M JOHN

Can travel. 276278

896111091119

WORLDS BEST

SIC CAL I'll MM Mar 1

· Wheel

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39965 5414

MODERN MANNERS: YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD

POPPY FOLLY

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

حكدًا من الأحل



Dear Serena, At 38, I accepted that the chances of my finding a reliable man to father a child while I was still fertile were slim. Dearly wanting a child and being in a position to have one without needing any financial help. I had a child by donor. Jack is now six, and a healthy, happy child in every way. The only problem is this: he is beginning to show interest in where he came from and, particularly since he started at a church school where most of his classmates are in standard nuclear families, in why he doesn't have a father. What do I

Emily, Huntingdon

Oh, blimey, Emily, you mean you've only just started thinking about this now?
You've had seven-odd years to work out a story, and you expect me to come up with a solution just like that? Please remember in future that if a truth is unpalatable, it's best to get it out in the open as quickly as possible. Secrets imply shame. And shame implies that

you've done something wrong. You must let him know about the facts of life in all their permutations as quickly as possible, before someone else does and makes the turkey-baster option seem freakish. Also: do consider moving him to a secular school. He'll find it easier to cope with his conceptual circumstances if he's not surrounded by little Christian children and their smugly natural parents.

Dear Serena My au pair has been helping herself from the drinks cabinet while we're out. The quantities aren't huge, and she's certainly not drunk in charge of the children, but it's still theft. In all other ways, she's ideal. How do we tackle this?

really want a glass, do just say." The

Presumably your au pair is 18? Buy cheaper brands, and make a point of saving: "By the way, you must be desperate for a drink some evenings. If there's a bottle of wine open and you

Jane, Newbury

poor child's meant to be living as part of the family, after all, and she will probably get the message if you look knowing enough when you

Dear Serena My boyfriend and I have decided to move in together and see how it goes before we commit further. We don't want to buy together until we are sure we can cope @ with sharing the same space long-term. The thing is, we can't agree on who should move into whose flat. His flat is larger but mine is better furnished (although, of course, he doesn't agree with that). What should

we do? Donna, Birmingham

ove in the sign of Taurus is not as easy

as it sounds - Taureans are so swollen

assuming you want to do the job in the

in such inconvenient places that it's

hard to get as close as you need to.

old-fashioned way. They are unlike air signs (who

are passionate but quick) - being laborious,

lubricious but. above all, longwinded. Taureans

Tudor banquet. They like to stuff animals with

that isn't entirely legal, even in these days.

don't make so much a meal of their love life as a

other animals before stuffing themselves; they like

Luckily, Taureans are not very communicative,

to make a grande bouffe of the bedroom in a way

except when they're hungry thence William the

Silent and Charles Bronson). They never talk much during sex (except to say, "Turn over") so

we're always kept at a distance and, in a sense

(perhaps, in fact, in every sense) this is just as

well. However, here is a local curiosity: at their

You have two choices. You could rent a whole new flat and pay for it by renting out both of yours. This might seem like a load of hassle, but couples often find that the political problems produced by one moving into what has so far been the

insurmountable, and it might be better in the long run. The other option is this: move your furniture into his flat and his into yours, then rent yours out. That way, you maintain some level of equal power over your mutual space and, hopefully, by the

point of crisis Taureans are prone to making a

himself doing precisely this, he realised that

he had refuted his maxim ("Of that we cannot

both philosophy and sex for a new career

strange whistling sound and shricking, "Ooblidah!

Ooblidah! Ow! Ow! Ow!" When Wittgenstein found

speak thereof we must remain silent") and gave up

Taureans love submissives, which is why we find

born this week in the dark heart of the sign Mayor Daley, Sir Stafford Cripps, Vladimir Zhirinovsky,

Saddam Hussein, William Randolph Hearst, and

Taureans - which is why Mary Wollstonecraft only

Taurus has gluttony engrained into its astrology

but there are those who are expert at turning this

Sir Thomas Beecham. Submissives also like

ever had English lovers, and why she was so

to good use - Marconi, as we know, made the

world's first radio receivers out of ice cream.

other's space are

your resources properly, his furnishings, which were probably bought, like most men's, in a single afternoon in Ikea will have been irrevocably destroyed by the lodgers and you

time you decide to pool

will never have to give house room to them again.

Dear Serena. I was thinking of marrying a footballer, but I'm worried because of the high divorce rate in the business. Also, I'm unsure about the effect on my career. What do you think?

Kirstie, Liverpool

Go ahead. At the very least, you'll have lots of fun choosing marble dinner tables and leather settees. And if it ends in divorce, you are guaranteed your own cable television chat show.

Dear Serena. I was feeling a bit run down recently. and a friend suggested I try a session of reiki healing. Having handed over £35 to a woman in a tie-dyed viscose dress and Bo Derek plaits, I spent 45 minutes lying on my back with my eyes closed while she cupped her hands and held them over various points on my body. After half an hour, I got so bored I fell asleep, waking 15

minutes later to find my healer beaming at me and telling me how well I'd responded. I am still knackered, and £35 poorer. Can I ask for my money back?

Shaunagh, Hampstead

I have consulted my pet guru, who closed his eyes, pinched his fingers together and, after some time, said: "My Daughter. Remember the words of the sages. Tired person easy mark to part with money." Be philosophical. Accept this experience as a lesson in being more judicious in your choice of adviser Also: cut down on booze, eat your greens and try going to bed early for a few weeks. You will be amazed at the regenerative effect it has upon your chakras. And that will be £20 plus VAT, please.

Knotty problems with the world todau? Write to Dear Serena, The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, where they will be treated with the customary sympathy



tell him?

ARIES

TRY TO cultivate polite people - they'll take the edge off the sullen aggression you're exuding. Resist the attractions of people you can behave badly with. Your amorous talents will exercise themselves in an unusual, not to say extreme, way - you may soar to the heights of filthy, selfindulgent, orgiastic depravity or plumb the depths of chastity. You'll jump to conclusions and squash flat whatever's there at the moment. Try to keep your private parts in private.



TAURUS

THIS IS unusual for you, this sudden sparkle, it's as though you're enjoying yourself. People who have admired you from a distance may be caught with the desire to put their hands inside your underclothing; they sense they will not be repulsed. And then the post-coital revulsion surprises you: it doesn't happen. You want more it's as though you've been blessed, and happiness delivers you friendship, money. luck. It matters not that you understand it so little.



GEMINI

YOU CAN now understand what's been going on -unless, of course, you're determined not to. The forces that have been operating so covertly are available - but for your eyes only. For once, your memory won't let you down and you may be able to keep two - or even three - ideas in your head at the same time. This means it's a good time to apply for a new job. Your mind has never been more independent and may declare UDI from the rest of your body.



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CANCER

THAT BREATH of fresh air - is it to clear your head, or to impel you somewhere you fear may be too dark? A sense of growth - rebirth almost - is growing, but whether it's because you have further degradation to go through first, or whether you have your destiny in your grasp already... this is not clear. Praise God, pass the ammunition and remember the moisturiser (especially if you're male). You are right to be wary of anger, but don't fear it.



YOU ARE a fighting sign so it shouldn't be surprising how querulous and quarrelsome you are becoming. Your argumentation will be basic but ineffective. The only source of success for you will be force - but even if you do succeed, was it really what you wanted? Now less than ever should you trust your instincts. A sort of damaged romantic will find you irresistible - nor will they be disappointed because your talent for excess sex is never more evident.

LEO



VIRGO

YOUR MIND is quick, brilliant and penetrating but only in the manner of a mechanical needle. It rarely goes deep, and inevitably returns. This week, though, an aspect with Uranus allows your intuitions to come from further beneath the surface. This might create problems: rely on inspiration from above rather than below. You make vulgar assumptions and arrive at ridiculous conclusions, but the drama with which you unburden yourself is worth watching.



irritable all the time.

LIBRA

YOU'RE IN luck, but then you usually are. Delight bubbles out of you like springwater and many come to refresh themselves. You show off so skilfully that many fall in love with you, and there will even be those who want you. Disappointment will dog them, naturally, but they will not regret the experience. An aspect with Jupiter may stir a vague religious sense - perhaos you will ascend from this sphere (you will want to write the memorial service first).



SCORPIO

MARS STILL isn't pulling its weight but Mercury has come into trine with Pluto and that opens up the depths to your frightening intuitions. You can see the sources of power, you can sense the deep structure of physical arrangements - the material and emotional architecture created by pure energy. You could probably learn enough to change the shape of anyone around you - if only you had the energy. Artists and private investigators will be best favoured with this gift.



SAGITTARIUS

AT LAST – ease, comfort, happiness, religious faith - now what's the matter? Venus shines through Jupiter, and the understanding you have of people will be made useful by your self-confidence. Artistic abilities will grow like Jack's beanstalk (perhaps you'll get a call-back on a panto?). Your partnerships will flourish but you might be bewildered by new events. You are better at faith than knowledge, but friends only want you to be nice - and for once, that's easy.



CAPRICORN

AT LEAST this opposition with Mars will bring you out of yourself, even it is something of a cockpit it brings you out into. But you will struggle for supremacy, and knowing your talent for dominion, you can exult in the upper hand. A conjunction with the Sun will then confirm your superiority: it is essential that you do not give away what you have won. Success is far harder to deal with than failure (you haven't had much practice, after all).



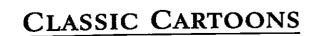
AQUARIUS

AQUARIAN FUNSTERS are well-endowed with spangling sexuality and romantic daring. If you are free to join the dance you will create new steps, turns and twisted ways of approaching the problem and this will be very interesting for your exhausted partner (who will wonder suspiciously where you learned this new stuff). Any opportunities in radio or television will offer more success than you could cope with. Rich people will like you more than you like them.



PISCES

TWO NASTY aspects kick your week off and you will limp through the week as a result. The first will inflate your fragile ego with an unfulfillable desire for recognition - perhaps you'll start a cult, or attempt to get into the record books with unrecognisable sex acts. Mars only makes things worse - if you try to act decently, repression will form neurotic keloids deep in your psyche. It really is best to try and express these things - but only if we can watch.



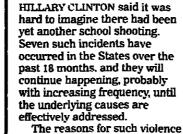
MARTIN PLIMMER ON MAC



'Cloning smelly old sheep. What time do you call

THOUGH NOT as distinctive or detailed a stylist as Giles, whose wide-screen format and scope of setting influenced him, Stan McMurtry, or Mac. wins prizes for longevity and reliability, which increase in number the longer and more reliably he works. Last month's Press Awards named him Cartoonist of the Year in his 28th year as political and social cartoonist for the Daily Mail, during which time he also wrote comedy sketches

(with Bernard Cookson) for Tommy Cooper and Dave Allen. Mac is always smartly topical, often combining two news themes in one gag. He can link the announcement of a synthetic replacement for Guards' bearskins with a report of a woman whose underpants spontaneously ignite. Impossible? An exhibition of Mac's work at the Rae-Smith Gallery, Cecil Court, London WC2 from 27 April, shows how it's done.

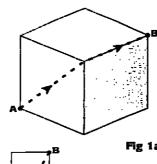


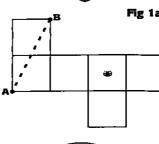
are uncontentious and wellknown. But just because the problem is understood and has a solution in theory does not mean that it will be solved in practice. Social factors, values and personal interests - in short, political considerations - get in the way. With a powerful gun lobby, controlling a gun culture that allows easy access to lethal weapons to anyone unable to control their anger, turns out to be a hot potato too far. Solving a social problem is of

a higher order of complexity than an intellectual problem considered in isolation. People are involved. Like a good puzzle, such a problem must be antiintuitive, which militates against the very consensus necessary to motivate change in a democracy.

Great minds do not think alike. Otherwise they wouldn't be great. Societies, crowds and groups have their own logic. You can reason with individuals. But demagogues don't reason with crowds - they sway them. Even if all agree on what needs doing power, skill and political will are needed to effect change. But we









elect politicians not for their problem-solving skills, but on image: how they talk and move. The line from the Tom Lehrer song: "At last we have a senator who can really sing and dance!" points up a truth. So expert advisers are needed.

But what if social good and personal self-interest conflict? You can always fall back on Maslanka's Third law: "For every expert advising a course of action, there is one who advises the exact opposite." Choose the right experts and you can free yourself of doing the right thing.

Solutions to last week's

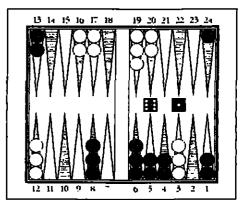
1 It is tempting to "see" the shortest route between opposite diagonals of the cube as shown in Fig 1a. Unfolding it does not distort the surface, however, and the shortest route is as in Fig 1b. 2 See next week's Puzzlemaster. 3 TIME FLIES = LIFETIMES.

Points to ponder 1 Three flies swim in a straight line away from a common starting point in a bowl of soup. How can the starting point be found? (Fig 2) 2 3 legs good, 4 legs not so good. Under what wobbly circumstances? Why? 3 Find a single-word anagram of COSY IGLOÒ.

Comments to: indy@ puzzlemoster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



IN THE Strand Magazine Tournament of 1899, Watson was drawn against the fiendish Moriarty. Early in the match, playing black, he had to decide how to play 61.

Since Holmes had often expostulated on the strength of a 5-point prime, he decided to risk leaving a blot on his mid-point and played 13/7, 8/7. The denouement was swift. Moriarty hit with a 41 playing 13/12*, 22/18. Watson entered with a 53 playing bar/22, 6/1 and two rolls later had to drop Moriarty's redouble.

Later, showing the position to

the great detective, he bemoaned his luck, "Luck, Watson, has nothing to do with it," said Holmes. "I am afraid that once again you have let a general

principle interfere with your analysis of a position. "Five-point primes are all very

well, but what is black's objective here? Surely his main priority is to escape his back man. Once that has been achieved he should win easily. This would indicate that the correct play is 24/18, 6/5. A tactical point, which should help you to conclude that this is the right play, is that if Moriarty hits your blot on his bar point with a 1 or a 2, he must break a good point to do so. In this instance, escaping the back man takes priority over building what might be a very short-lived 5-point prime."

"As ever, Holmes, your explanation makes everything seem so simple." "How complimentary, my dear Watson."

SUNDAY TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC1

6.40 Teletubbies (4747835), 7.20 Match of the Day (9088212). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (68545). 9.30 The Heaven and Earth Show (46670). 10-30 Gardeners' World Take Two (3686854). 10.40 Ballykissangel (2209903). 11.30 Countryfile (6583). 12.00 On the Record (78090), 1.00 EastEnders (7725748). .

2.25 King Solomon's Mines (Compton Bennett 1950 UK), Stewart Granger stars in this adventure yarn (168274).

4.05 Are You Being Served? (7749632). 4.35 Junior Masterchef (3734458). 5.05 Lifelina (5146699). 5.15 News; Weather (5823908). 5.35 Local News (246800). 5.40 Songs of Praise (892318).

6.15 Wildlife on One. How Kenva's wildlife makes the most of the passing tourist trade (573187).

6.45 The Antiques Inspectors. Jil Dando and Antiques Roadshow experts visit the town at the centre of the Industrial Revolution, Ironbridge (S) (T) (319309).

7.30 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt. The Universal Studios tour in Florida (R) (S) (T) (496).

8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Nora swoons at Billy's likeness to her idol, Errol Flynn (S) (T) (4767).

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart (S) (T) (3274).

9.00 Ambassador, Pauline Colins continues to portray a fictitious British ambassador to Ireland. Britain and Ireland are brought to the brink of violent confrontation over ownership of Rockall (S) (T) (310835).

9.50 News; Weather (T) (936545).

10.05 CHOCE A Rather English Marriage. Drama in which a squadron leader and a retired milkman decide to bury their differences. See Drama of the Day. below (R) (S) (T) (623903).

PM

11.45 World Snooker Championship (S) (734895).

12.45 Wojeck - Out of the Fire (George Bloomfield 1992 Can). After devoting 21 years to a medical clinic in Africa, former chief coroner Steve Wojeck returns home to Toronto (Then Weather) (174201). To 215am

BBC₂

7.00 Open University: Women in Science and Technology (9577090). 7.25 Cyber Art - Submerge (2418106). 7.30 Personal Passions (8835835). 7.45 The Business Café (84903). 8.15 The French Experience (8555800). 8.30 Little Monsters (1781496). 8.35 Gadget Boy (9370125). 9.00 Fully Booked (276800), 12,00 The O Zone (7475380). 12.15 Lee and Herring's This Morning with Richard, Not Judy (3699903), 1.00 Around Westminster (94699). 1.30 Sunday Grandstand (13698816). 1.35 Athletics - Balmoral Road Races (7370361). 2.30 World Snooker Championship (80896854). 4.45 Rugby Union (8335670).

5.30 Snooker. Further second-round coverage from Sheffield (8862583).

6.45 Star Trek: Voyager. Neelix, Chakotay and Paris are sent on a mission to gather data deep inside a class-one nebula (S) (T) (800651).

7.30 The Money Programme. New stories from the world of business and work (S) (T) (598).

8.00 Cold War. "Star Wars 1980-88". Ronald Reagan increased arms expenditure on fanciful space weapon research. Mikhail Gorbachev knew he could not respond to Reagan raising the stakes (891564).

8.50 World Snooker Championship. Coverage of the world championship from the Crucible continues (S) (5350800)

10.00 Have I Got News for You. With Gordon Brown's former spin-doctor Charlie Whelan (S) (T) (56380)

10,30 CHOICE Ed Wood (Tim Burton 1994 US). Biopic of low-budget director Edward D Wood Jr., dubbed "the worst director of all time". See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (90534564)

12.35 The Body Snatcher (Robert Wise 1945 US). A dark tale of grave-robbing in 19th-century Edinburgh with Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi, who is portrayed by Martin Landau in Ed Wood (above) (Then Weatherview) (5858355). To 2am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (14212). 8.00 Diggit (3371564). 9.25 Hey Arnold! (7623361). 9.55 Animal Ark (8385106), 10.25 Power Plangers (3579941). 10.50 The Mystic Knights (9105748). 11.15 Oggy and the Cockroaches (6027670). 11.30 Sunday Morning (53835), 12.30 Crosstalk (84651), 1,00 Jonathan Dimbleby (89106), 2.00 Generations (35612632). 2.10 Murder, She Wrote (1791496).

3.00 Till The Adventures of Robin Hood (Michael Curuz 1938 US). Errol Flynn stars in this swashbuckling adventure (34721835).

4.55 Big Screen (3757309). 5.25 London Tonight (9528516), 5.45 Chef School (576274).

6.15 ITV News; Weather (890903).

6.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of Music. Michael Barrymore hosts the entertainment show in which competitors get the chance to perform (S) (T) (68106).

7.30 Coronation Street. Learne faces up to life on her own (S) (T)

8.00 Where the Heart Is. Drama series following the lives and loves of two community nurses in a small Yorkshire town, Tension mounts when Vic jeopardises a young man's rugby career (S) (T) (5106).

9.00 Bad Blood. Second in a three-part drama by Tony Marchant about a surgeon and his wife who try to adopt a Romanian child. Irving confronts Jae (Alex Jennings) about the death of the Americans (S) (T)

10.00 My Wonderful Life. Sparky nurse sitcom. Donna loses a patient at work (S) (T) (50106).

10.30 ITV News; Weather (T) (501941).

10.45 Two Thousand Years. Melvyn Braggs history of Christianity reaches the Roman Empire (334859).

11.45 Still in Bed with MeDinner (S) (T) (862583). 12.15 Film: A Killer among Us (503171). 2.05 Club@vision (7503423). 2.50 Jonathan Dimbleby (S) (T) (4989959). 3.40 Cybernet (R) (S) (44428862). 4.10 Night Shift (89134881), 4.15 ITV Nightscreen (8920930). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.30 Bagpuss (7966038), 6.45 The Clangers (9310903). 7.00 Salty's Lighthouse (9579458). 7.25 Bug Alenti (9581293). **7.50** Insektors (3320670). 8,00 insektors (8630545), 845 Doug (8653496). 8.30 Hano Time (46903). 9.00 The Waltons (63380). 10.00 Mallou (42748), 10,30 Johnny Bravo (9192274), 10.50 T4: Planet Pop (8318187). 11.00 Hollyoaks (1143380). 12.10 Dawson's Creek (1771922). 1.05 The Real World (4569274). 1.45 Brussels - Behind Closed Doors (100380). 2.45 Football Italia (80893767). **5.05** Pocket Guides (9423962).

5.20 Bonnie Prince Charlie (Anthony Kimmins 1948 UK). David Niven stars as the Young Pretender. doing his bit for Scotland. A critical and box-office flop, with Margaret Leighton, as Flora MacDonald, and Jack Hawkins (770)6545).

7.30 The Establishment. Photojournalist Nick Danziger meets Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain (T) (108).

8.00 CHOCE Now We Are Two: the Real Peter Mandelson. Mandelson's biographer, The Independent's Donald Macintyre, triss to unravel "the prince of darkness". See Profile of the Day, below (3748).

9.00 Crash. The second in this repeat series about our fatal relationship with the motor car suggests that the safer and more comfortable the conditions, the more invulnerable we feel and, hence, the faster we travel (R) (T) (6212).

10.00 Heaven's Prisoners (Phil Joanou 1996 US). Retired Lousiana cop Alec Baldwin and wife Kelly Lynch have their peaceful existence shattered when they take in a young girl, the only survivor of a plane crash that may not have been an accident (T) (600903).

12.30 The 11 O'Clock Show (1876152). 1.20 Babylon 5 (7708510). 2.15 American Gothic (R) (7889881). 3.10 For the Love Of (3189688).

4.05 Pool of London (Basil Dearden 1951 UK). Documentarystyle thniler about small-time smuggling (5899442). To 5.35am.

Channel 5

6.30 Hot Property (76930187). 6.55 Russell Grant's Postcards (5624)854). 7.00 Dappledown Farm (2380941). 7.30 Mikshake! (2185699), 7.35 Wimzie's House (4597477), 8.05 From Jesus to Christ (8111854). 9,00 USA High (8302496), 9.30 Sister Said (6982895). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (4674564). **10.30** The Wonder Years: (8391380). 11.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (2385496). **12.00** Inside Out Special (6382632). 12.30 The Mag (5741038). 1.10 5 News (19336467). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (31515106). 1.50 The Movie Chart Show (36488361). 2.20 Exclusive (2870467). 2.55 Family Affairs Ornabus (46933670), 5.10 The Tribe (97575496).

5.40 FILM Tail Tale; the Unbelievable Adventures of Pecas BID (Jeremiah Chechik 1995 US). Family adventure about a young boy whose father looks set to lose his farm until the boy is visited by three frontier legends. All the boy has to do to save the farm is prove that he is deserving of their assistance. Patrick Swayze stars (S) (T) (92560816).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (6664545).

8.00 Martial Law. Drama series about Sammo Law, an undercover police captain from Shanghai, Sammo joins torces with two Los Angeles detectives after one of his colleagues disappears while infiltrating an international crime ring (9878212).

9.00 Film Lethal Lollta (Bradford May 1992 US). One of the three headline-chasing movies made out of the case of Army Fisher, the young Long Island woman who violently attacked the wife of her older lover, Joey Buttafuoco, permanently disabling her. This film version of events was made with Fisher's assistance, reflecting her view that she was manipulated by Buttafuoco into committing the crime (S) (T)

10.50 Water Rats. Police drama series. set in Sydney Harbour. When the owner of an import-export company is killed by a bomb on the waterfront. an investigation ensues (S) (5479831).

11.45 The Comedy Network (8561800). 12.15 Major League Baseball (90158881), 4,40 You Again? (S) (94999572). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (1)079341), To 5.30am.

ITV/Regions

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BRC1 N Ireland As BBC1 England except: 5.05 Lifetne front Northern Ireland (5148699) BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 England except: 11.30 Landward (6583) BBC1 Wales As SBC1 England except: 11.30 Homeland (6583).

Homeland (6583).

Artiglia
As 2WT excepts 12.30 Anglia News
Sunday Supplement (84651), 2.00 Hope
and Glona (9699), 2.30 Bugs Burny - AlAmerican Hero (699), 3.00 Murder, She
Whote (2767), 4.00 Film: The Undeficated
(85114835), 6.05 Anglia News (810767)
14.45 The Prince's Trust Party in the
Park Concert (194011), 12.45 Still in Bed
with McDinner (17355), 1.35 Film: A Killer
among Us (19770), 3.00 CubaVision
(173642), 3.40 Jonathan Dmbleby
(9177046), 4.25 Cyberner (88511732),
4.85 ITV Mighiscraen (78986677), 5.00
Coronation Street (11794)

Central
As LWT except: 12.30 Lifetre
(765×767), 12.35 Central Newsleek
(301503), 12.55 Central Newsleek
(301503), 12.55 Central Newsleek
(765×767), 12.35 Morder, She Wrote
(7248125), 2.35 Morder, She Wrote
(7248125), 2.30 Film: Christopher
(2016), 2.35 Lifetre (162622), 6.00
(2016), 5.35 Lifetre (162622), 6.00
(2016), 5.35 Lifetre (162622), 6.00
(2016), 6.75 Lifetre (162622), 6.00
(2016) Central

Jobfinder (767852).

HTV Wales
As LWT except: 11.30 Sunday
Morning (8835477). 12.25 Waterfront
(2635570). 12.55 HTV News (1126290).
2.00 Fin: Journey to the Centry of the
Earth (278090). 3.50 Anatomy of
Disaster (738854) 4.40 The Front Row
(343812) 5.40 Soccer Sunday (222599).
6.10 HTV News and Weather (336800).
11.45 Shoot to Thirl (13401). 12.45 Still
In Bed with McDirner (17355). 1.15 Film:
A Killer among Us (190713). 3.00
Cubel/ison (172842). 3.40 Jongsthan
Durbbeby (5177046). 4.25 Cybernet
(8887152). 4.55 Nojrischen (74995607).
5.00 Coronation Street (1794).

HTV West

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 12.25 Hope and Glora (2835570). 2.00 Mardsr, She. Wrote (1777810). 2.50 Fin: Caesar and Cleopaha. 80804498). 5.10 All Gardens Great and Small (5053944. 5.40 West Match Plus (232699). Meridian

Meridian
As LWT except: 12.30 7 Days
(301632): 12.50 Meridian News
(7855/37): 2.00 Geraways (9699): 2.30
Murder: She Wrote (50/87): 3.30 Fam:
The Undersated (1727/60): 5.45
Meridian Tonight (576274): 11.45 The
Prince's Trust Party in the Park Concert
(13401): 12.45 Shi in Bed with MeDimer
(17353): 1.15 Fam: A Killer among Us
(190713): 3.00 Cubalvison (172842):
3.40 Jonathan Dambleby (977046): 4.25
Cybernet (6851152): 4.55 Nightscreen
(7898907): 5.00 Freescreen (1794).
Westernummy

(#199807), 5.00 Freescreen (1794).

Westcountry
As LWT except: 10.50 Cartoon
(8310545), 11.00 Westcountry Update
(7962), 12.30 Westcountry Westcat
(7963), 2.30 Westcountry Westcat
(896), 2.30 A World of Worder
(899), 3.00 Murder, She Wrote (8430522),
3.55 Firm: The Cracksman (18020090),
6.00 Goals Extra (410815) 6.05
Westcountry News (810767), 11.45 Pulp:
a Feeling Called Live (134011), 12.45 Shill
In Bed with MeDirner (1735), 1.25 Firm:
A Käer among Us (190773), 3.00 A Kaler among Us (1907)3, 3,00 Cabal/sion (1728442) 3,40 Jonathan Dimbleby (9177048), 4,25 Cybernet (985ms2), 4,56 Nightscreen (7899607), 5,80 Cotonation Street (17794).

Yorkshire . Yorkshire
As LWT excepts 12.30 Earth Matters
(8459), 2.00 Calendar News (89749212),
2.05 Breakeways (89745583) 2.30
Stepping the World (51249564) 2.35
Firm: The Advertures of Robin Hood
(74664380), 4.30 Coronellon Street
(87670), 5.30 Calendar News and Sport
(11767), 5.45 Goels on Sunday (576274),
2.05 Firm: Saina Dob Leke Aama
(8070930), 4.25 Jobfinder (9482775).

Tyne Tees Newsweek (84651). 2.00 North East News and Weather (8978212). 5.30 North East News and Sport (111767). 5.45 Cale Sport (578274). S4C

344. Channel 4 except: 12.00 Uchathwyntiau Uned 5 (84867545). 12.35 Goi (97258390). 1.20 Flermio (17388458). 1.50 Dawson's Creek (40863545). 2.40 Brookside (94046583). 4.05 Wild Tales (55383090), 5.00 Newycdion (47844019), 5.05 Maniffesto (78800729), 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (73806699), 7.30 Botwm 4 (99934632). 8.00 Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canno (4231800), 8-30 Licyris Olsoris (99523545), 9.05 Jechyd De (39381038), 9.50 Newyddion (84492748), 10.05 Fam: Heaven's Presoners (71405941). 12.30 Now We Are Two: the Real Peter Mandelson (42127794). 1.30 Shanghai Vice (48305268). 2.30 Close.

DRAMA OF THE DAY

A RATHER ENGLISH MARRIAGE (1005pm BBC1) If you missed Andrew Davies' Bafta-nominated adaptation of Angela Lambert's novel when it was on at Christmas, then this is the perfect opportunity to catch it. Albert Finney is an ex-RAF squadron leader and Tom Courtenay is a former milkman - both widowed on the same day. Joanna Lumley co-stars as a glamorous widow.



PROFILE OF THE DAY

NOW WE ARE TWO: THE REAL PETER MANDELSON (8pm C4) The TV version of the Independent political commentator Donald Macintyre's biography of Peter Mandelson, which has been serialised in this newspaper for the past week. This wry film about the "prince of darkness" follows Mandelson from school rebel to moustachioed Labour spin doctor and the fateful triumvirate with Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.



FILM OF THE DAY

ED WOOD (10.30pm BBC2) 'Tim Burton's sympathetic and surprisingly moving biography of Ed Wood, director of such schlock classics as Glen or Glenda, and the supposed "worst film-maker of all time". Johnny Depp plays the crossdressing Wood, with Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker as his clotheslending girlfriend. But the picture is stolen by Martin Landau as Bela Lugosi.



RADIO

RADIO 1 (976-998MHz FM) **6.30** Kevin Greening 10.00 Mark Goodier's Radio 1 Request Show 1.00 Jamie Theakston 3.00 Top of the Pops. 4.00 The UK Top 40. 7.00 Radio 1's Dance Anthems with Dave Pearce **9.00** Annie Night 100 Emma 8 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills. RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 7.00 Don Maclean 9.05 Steve Wright's Sunday
Love Songs. 11.00
Parkinson's Sunday
Supplement. 1.00
Desmond Cairlington.
3.00 Russell Davies. 3.00 Russell Davies.
4.00 Fred Astaire: Step by Step. 4.30 Sing Something Simple. 5.00 Pam Ayres. 7.00 House Scully. 8.30 Sunday Half Hour. 9.00 Alan Keith.
10.00 Malcoth Laycock. **11.00** The David Jacobs Collection 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00 - 4.00 RADIO 3

(902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week Encore. 12.15 Music Matters **1.00** The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.45 Glorious John. 4.00 100 Great Singers. 4.15 Centurions. L30 The Year. 5.45 Sunday Feature: Mr Nabokov's Blues 6.30 Mozart. 7.00 Opera on 3. A conpett's second opera, live from the Royal Festival Hall. The libratio is based on Homer's account of the fall of the ancient city of Troy. David Wilson-Johnson, baritone (King Priam), Susan Bullock, soprano (Hecuba), BBC Singers, BBC National Orchestra of Wales/David

Atherton Part 1

7.50 Homer Today. When Tippett started to

Priam' in 1958, he based his libretto on Homer. Does this work represent one of the last vestices est in this ancient author, or will coming ages reread and reinvent ages rereat and reminen his work as we have been doing for two millermia? Officer Taplin investigates the continu-ing and vigorous response of contempo-rary artists to Homer's work

Sun King Priam, Part 2.
Sund Read.
Ivan Hewett is joined by
Nicholas Spice and Miles
Kington to review the latest books on music. est books on music.
Tomes under discussion
this month include Keeping Time - Readings in
Jezz', 'Haydn Studies',
and Vikram Seth's new novel, 'An Equal Music'. 9.00 King Priam, Part 3. 10.15 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley's guest this week is Amelia Freedman, founder of the world-famous Nash Ensemble and now head of classical music at London's South Bank Centre. 11.15 Talis Scholars (R) 11.55 BBC Philharmonic LOO - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4

(924-946MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Something Understood. 6.35 On Your Farm. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers. 7:10 Sunday 7.55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from America. 9.00 News; Broadcasting House 10.00 The Archers. 11.15 Desert Island

1.00 The World This

Weekend. 1.30 All the Rage. 2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time. 2.30 Marguerite Patten's Century of British Cooking.
3.00 News; Classic
Serial: Voss.
4.00 News; Open Book.
4.30 Adventures in Poetry. 5.00 News; File on 4

Special. **5.40** A Mathematician Reads the Newspapers. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 5.57 Weamer.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Pick of the Week.
7.00 News; The Archers.
7.15 The Copy Snatchers. Guests from around the world observe, pandy and dissect parody and dissect topical British stories from foreign perspec-tives. Presented by David Aaronovitch. 8.00 News, Feedback Roger Bolton presents the programme which views about BBC radio. 8.30 Nice Work Alison Mitchell explores the working life. 9.00 News;

issues that shape your Consequences: Women's Ordination, Jonathan Freedland looks back at political or social turning points in the past 50 years, in this programme, he examines the vote for Church of England. (R) 9.30 Analysis. 'Dream-ing of Green Pastures'. The future of the countryside is being debated, but have we stopped to ask why we value it and what it means to us today? Ian Hargreeves looks at the significance of the land in our national life and Imagination. 10.00 News; The West-minster Hour, With just 12.00 News; Quote. ten campaigning days left in Scotland, Wales Unquote. 12-30 Sentimental

and the council elections. Andrew Rawnslev has the latest political headlines. Including at 10.45 Class Act: in the last of three programmes on postwar prime ministers and class, Prot David Cannadine discusses ideas of a classiess socineas of a classiess society advocated by John Major and Tony Blair.

11.00 News; A Good Read Sarah LeFanu and guests actor Gareth Armstrong and biograph-er Jenny Uglow discuss

three favourite paperbacks. 11.30 Something Understood 12.00 News. 12.15 Experimental Feature; Alarmed. 12.30 The Late Story: My Children Are Movers 12.48 Shipping 1.00 As World Service 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 • 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) **12.00 - 12.04 News** Headines; Shipping Forecast. 8.00 - 10.00 Open University. **RADIO 5 LIVE** (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Brief Lives.

6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Nell. 9.00 SportsWeek **10.00** Sunday Service. 11.25 Sunday Sport. 6.00 Scottish Premier League. 8.00 News Extre. 8.30 The Junk Trade. 9.00 Global James Proctor presents news and insight from around the world, including what people abroad make of britains big issue of the

10.00 Late Night Currie.

the weekend's big issues. Phone 0500 909693. Plus a full news briefing at f1.00. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. **CLASSIC FM**

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance 12.00 Across the Threshold with David Mellor. 2.00 Alan Mann. 4.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Countdown Top Teru 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Sunday Night at the Opera. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 1.00 Evening Concert. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Darmy Baker. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Janey Lee Grace. 6.45 London Calling with Janey Lee Grace/AM Richard Allen. 7.30 Richard Allen. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 My Century. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Meridian (Feature). 3.00 The World Today, 3.30 Global Business, 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today. TALK RADIO 6.00 My Favourite Year. 7.00 Sunday Morning People with Paul Ross and Helen Gibson. 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens, 12.00

Sunday Sport 6.00 My Favourite Year, 7.00

Best of the Week 8.00

James Whale, 1.00 -

6.00 Mike Dickin.



SATELLITE & CABLE Breezy (1973) (33101854). 12-25 Payment on De-mand* (1951) (5814607). (539361). **1.30** Equastrianism (778903). **4.00** Football (13835). **5.30** Motorcycling (56019). **7.00** Tennis (53380). **9.00**

Sky Premier 6.00 The Pirate Movie (1982) (50448187), 7.35 The Princess Bride (1987) (81605212), 9.35 An American Tail: Flevel Goes West (1991) (3274908), 11.00 Problem Child (1990) (93699), 12.30 Hollywood Buzz (17903), 1.00 The Pirate Movie (1982) (69466380), 2.50 An American Tail: Flevel Goes West (1991) (3506800), 4.10 Problem Child (1990) (1348449), 5.36 Problem Child (1990) (1348449), 5.36 Problem Child (1990) (1348449), 5.37 Problem Child (1990) (1348449), 5.39 Problem Child (1990) (1348449), 5.39 Problem Child (1990) (157734903), 11.35 Beverly Hills Cop (1984) (307748), 12.20 The Perez Family (1995) (447133), 3.15 Screamers (1995) (444336), 5.05 - 6.00 Hollywood Buzz (876862),

(8876862). Sky MovieMax 6.00 Heart Full of Rain (1997) (30274) 8.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995) (90309), 10.00 Sind 1995) (35309), **12.00** The Prantom (1996) (73632). 2.00 Heart Full of Rain (1997) (69380). 4.00 Suste Q (1995) (1212). 6.00 The

C (1995) (1212) 6.00 Tha Phantom (1996) (56816).
8.00 Crocodie Dundee (1986) (51361). 10.00 Booly Call (1997) (2266835). 11.20 Rumble in the Bronx (1996) (77477). 12.50 Big Night (1995) (913794). 2.40 Laws of Gravity (1992) (277591). 4.20 Independents Day (1998) (4453133). 5.20 - 7.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995) Behind the Waterfall (1995) (72740591). 11.00 Higher and Higher 11.00 Higher and Higher and Higher and Higher (1943) (5570835). 12.30 Deadline USA* (1952) (935449). 2.00 Five Graves to Cairo (1943) (6542309). 3.45 The Desert Rats (1953) (4050105). 5.45 Bettle of the Butte #1965)

the Bulge (1965) (96495632), 7.45 Cinema Nation (1235903), 8.00 The Guns of Navarone (1961) (35916090), 10.35

2.00 Shanghai Triad (1995) (5100084), 3.50 Higher and Higher* (1943) (47544794), 5.20 Close, **FilmFour** FilmFour 6.00 It Could Happen To You (1994) (8032458) 8.00 American Buffalo (1996) (2008274) 9.30 Oleanna (1992) (9725922) 11.00 Things Change (1988) (3163274) 12.45 Vanya on 42nd Street (1994) (1380881) 2.40 - 6.00 Farawaii My Concubine (1993) (25085794) (1993) (25085794).

Discovery Channel 4.00 Code Red (1356729).

5.00 Extreme Machines (657090). 6.00 Ultimete (65612835). 7.00 Crocodie Hunter (6588019). 7.30 Crocodie Hunter (4496632). 8.00 Beyond the Truth (8494545). 9.00 Discovery Tenth Amriversary: Mysteries of

Anniversary: Mysteries of Magic (8414309). 10.00 Mysteries of Magic (8417495), 11.00 Mysterie of Magic (3720748), **12.00** Medical Detectives (7034201), **12.30** Medical Detectives (6751978), 1.00 Justice Files (6491046), 2,00 Close.

2.00 Crose.

Sky One
6.00 Hour of Power
(82941). 7.00 What-e-Mess
(13748). 7.30 Samural
13748). 7.30 Samural
13749. 7.30 Teenage
Alien Fighters 95293.
9.00 The Simpsons
(86545). 9.30 Pokemon
(20477). 10.00 Dream
Team (21767). 11.00
Wrestling (41813). 12.00 Team (21767). 11.00
Wresting (#1813). 12.00
Wresting (#1813). 12.00
Kung Fu (30800). 1.00 7th
Heaven (29748). 2.00
Beverly Hills, 90210
(76729). 3.00 VIP (32748).
4.00 Star Trek: Deep
Space Nine (44583). 5.00
Star Trek: Voyager (8380).
6.00 The Simpsons
(5562). 6.30 Simpsons
(5564). 7.00 King of the
Hill (4309). 7.30 3rd Rock
tom the Sun (7748). 8.00 from the Sun (7748). 8,00 Earth: Finel Conflict

(62477). **9.00** The X Files (75941). **10.00** Fabulous! (72900). **11.00** South Park (45212). **11.30** Highlander (8409). **12.30** LAPO (50978). **1.00** Sightings (94510). **2.00** - **7.00** Long Play (1346775).

Sky Sports 1 6.00 Moto-Plus (45922). 6.00 Moto-Plus (45922).
6.30 Rugby Union Update (94593).
8.00 Aerobics (58361).
8.30 World Sport Special (57632).
9.00 Fight Night (10167).
11.00 Ford Super Sunday Leeds United v Manchester United (552212).
2.00 Goals on Sunday (34767).
3.00 Ford Super Sunday Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea (5368361).
2.00 Spanish Football (95844).
11.00 Ford Super Sunday (38800).
1.00 Wrestling (9018133).
4.00 Close
Skry Sports 2 **Sky Sports 2 6.00** Watersports World (8781816). **7.00** Aerobics (5276859). **7.30** World

> 8.00 Soccer Extra (3257944), 11.00 Volleyball Men's National Volleyball Cup Final (1551748), 1.90 Rugby (8272767), 2.30 Cricket West Indies v Australia (2556083), 6.00 X.Zone (3836038), 6.30 A-Zorie (30003): A-So Cricket West Index v Australie (2503729), 10.30 NASCAR Winston Cup (6518583), 1.30 Speniesh Football (5498152), 3.30 Scottish Football (2314539), 4.30 Close

Sky Sports 3
8.00 Baseball (57379632).
11.00 European Your Golf (54551038). 3.00 Max
Power (43921038). 4.00
Irish Motorsport (24593477). 4.30 Motorsporting: Japanese Grand Price. cling: Japanese Grand Pro (29757351). **6.00** Football Rangers v Aberdeen (13768090), 8.45 Ford Goff USA (76037723), *11.00 World Sport Special (43901274), *11.30 Sailing (62052545), 12.00 Close. Eurosport 8.30 Football (55670). 10.30 Motorcycling

UK Gold 7.00 Angels (3713458). 7.30 Blake's Seven (6126895). 8.25 Blake's Seven (6165854). 9.20 Dr Who Omnibus: The Death Assassin (14019564), 11.05 Dellas Omnibus (12465380), 1.00 Film: (42485380). 1.00 Film: (42485380). 3.00 The Bill (509800). 3.00 The Bill (2009800). 3.00 The Bill (2009800). 3.00 The Bill (2009800). 3.00 The Bill (3009800). 3.00 The (3 in the Grave (6983106) 10.15 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (45408458), 11.20 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (9996748), 12.25 Harnish

Boxing (19309), 10.00 Sportscentre (996187), 10.15 Motorcycling (77097354), 12.30 Close.

Macbeth (2158220), 1.25 The Sculptress (4550268). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (3.59668).
Living
6.00 Can't Cook, Won't
Cook (7105903). 6.30
Animal Rescue (1816019).
7.00 Professor Bubble
(660927). 7.25 Barney
and Friends (6610922).
7.50 Babatoos (4776361).
7.55 Practical Parenting
(4775632). 8.00 Califor 7.55 Practical Parenting (4775632) 8.00 Caillou (9721485) 8.05 Polke Dot Shorts (6476318) 8.15 Johnson and Friends (9472470), 8.25 My Zoo (8886458), 8.30 Tiny and Crew (8895651), 8.50 Practical Parenting (9139748) 9.00 Tine Heat Is On (3906899), 9.20 Can't Cook, Worth Cook (2577583), 10.00 The Rosearme Show -

(2577583). 10.00 The Roseame Show - Highlights (1830699). 10.30 Brookside Omnibus (9030403). 12.30 Films: Holiday Affair* (1949) (22461545). 2.15 Films: All About Eve* (1950) (94109941). 5.00 Mrs Greentin robe Divisio Eth

(94109941). 5.00 Mrs Greenthumbs Double Bill (7910899). 6.00 Through the Keyhote Double Bill (2556080). 7.00 Rescue 911 Double Bill (2706075).

8.00 Ally McBeal (3774645). 9.00 Jerry Springer (72505380). 10.45 Entertainment (3444458), 12.00 Close TNT

9.00 Angels with Dirty Faces* (1938) (93923361). 11.00 | Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang* (1932) (90903941). LOO Outfit (1973) (90898065), **3.00** The Password is Courage* (1962) (84193997), **5.00** Close.

Comedy Channel
7.00 Clueless (8831), 7.30
Caroline in the City (7880).
8.00 Med about You
(6309), 8.30 Spin City
(5816), 9.00 Cheers
(7609), 10.30 Cheers
(76767), 11.00 Frasier
(69816), 11.30 Whose Line (69816). 11.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (20564). 12.00 Film: Radio Days (1987) (58881). 1.30 Club (1907) [3506]; 1.30 (2.07) Class (17997); 2.00 Al-most Perfect (189775); 2.30 Tos and Fibs (91510); 3.00 Mork and Mirrby (83442); 3.30 Abbott & Costello (82862). 4.00 Close.

Granada Plus: 6.00 Mission: impossible (6588212), **7.00** Plus on Plus (1425670), **7.30** That's Pus (1425670). 7.30 That's My Boy (1411477). 8.00 Watching (1750748). 8.30 Time after Time (1759019). 9.00 Mission: Impossible (9215125). 10.00 Behind the Velvet Ropes (8800854). 10.30 Homes with Style (1762583). 11.00 Adventines of Shedrel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1420125). 12.00 Jeeves and Wooster (5967729). **1.00** Maggie and Her (1424941). **1.30** Hallelujah (5970293). **2.00** Poirot (8801583). **3.00** Bonanza (4547019), 4.00 High Chaparral (4559854), 5.00 Classic Coronation Street (2196458), 7.30 Time after Time (3819632). 8.00 Poirot (7970564). 9.00 Jeeves and Wooster (7887800). 10.00 In Suspicious Circumstances (7960197). 11.00 Granada Men & Motors (9550019).

2.00 Close.

FULL 7-DAY TV AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN 'THE INFORMATION'



DIGITAL, CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION

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Part Button Table

Pock of the Week (35272078). 11.45 Row Z (5985989) 12.15 Close.

BBC NEWS 24
6.00 98C News (3760705) 7.00 BBC News (386892) 7.30 Talking Movies (305927) 8.00 Weekend 24 (427163) 8.00 BBC News (448586) 9.30 Straight Talk (5830328) 10.00 BBC News (352678) 10.30 LifeWatch (4405250) 11.00 BBC News (352678) 10.30 LifeWatch (4405250) 11.00 BBC News (467168) 11.30 Smpson's World M672347) 12.00 BBC News (4496502) 12.30 Face in the Crowd (583444) 1.00 BBC News (667563) 4.00 BBC News (370328) 2.30 Straight Talk (5904076) 3.00 BBC News (467563) 4.00 BBC News (475570) 6.30 Scoreline (4596057) 7.00 BBC News (4757414) 7.30 Scoreline (4596057) 7.00 BBC News (774144) 7.30 Scoreline (4596057) 7.00 BBC News (787414) 7.30 Scoreline (4596057) 7.00 BBC News (4697237) 10.30 BBC News (4697231) 10.30 BBC News (497231) 10.30 BBC News (497231) 10.30 BBC News (497231) 10.30 Scoreline (459606) BBC News (459579) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 1.00 BBC News (5854908) 10.00 BBC News (459579) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5694381) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (6564481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (6564481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (6564481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (6564481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5664481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5664481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5664481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5664481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5664481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5664481) 3.30 Sclence Review (5302972) 2.30 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (536990) 5.30 6.00 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (536990) 5.30 6.00 Smpson's World (537564) 3.00 BBC News (5

Straight Talk (4050903).

BRAVO

8.00 The Men Who Killed Kennedy (8454927).

See Pick of the Day 9.00 The Men Who Killed Kennedy (843483).

10.00 Lone Gurmen (84920).

11.00 Films: Mercenary (1596) (9575279) 1.00 Lone Gurmen (641900).

2.00 The Men Who Killed Kennedy (5708552) 3.00 Films: Mercenary (1696) (8283835) 5.00 – 6.00 The Men Who Killed Kennedy (1509654) **BRAVO DIGITAL**

DIGITAL ONLY FROM 12NOON - 800PM 12.00 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (7765415), 12.30 Westing (664298), 1.00 Arapulco HEAT (5652453), 2.00 The Extremists (6504057), 2.30 Hero Turties (1435527), 3.00 The Fair Guy (199076), 4.00 Acapulco HEAT (1501617), 5.00 The Extremists (6528637), 5.30 Wrestling 1446537), 6.00 The Fair Guy (5649999), 7.00 Acapulco HEAT (8445279), 8.00 The Mero Who Killed Kennedy (8454927), 5ee Pick of the Day, 9.00 The Mero Who Killed Kennedy (8434763), 10.00 Lone Gurmen (8437250), 11.00 Films Mercenary (1996) (9575279), 1.00 Lone Gurmen (641600), 2.00 The Mero Who Killed Kernedy (1996) (3708552), 3.00 Films: Mercenary (1996) (5283835), 5.00 – 6.00 The Mero Who Killed Kernedy (1996) DIGITAL ONLY FROM 12NOON - 800PM

CARLTON CINEMA CARLITON CINEMA
7.00 Alfs Button Alfoat (1933) (8659347). 9.00
Easy to Wed (1946) (985908). 11.00 Once a Johy
Swagman (1948) (982928). 1.00 Long Voyage
Home (1940) (9856724). 3.00 The Mortal Storm
(1940) (4475983). 5.00 Smba (1955) (2928927).
7.00 Torn Jones (1963) (8673827). 9.00 Bad
Boys (1983) (9067144). 11.00 The Frisco Kid
(1978) (-467960). 1.00 Bad Boys (1983)
(4453212). 3.00 The Frisco Kid (1979) (1238922).
5.00 - 7.00 Alfs Button Alfoat (1938) (3578699). CARLTON KEDS DIGITAL ONLY

6.00 Up for it (592453) 9.00 Tirry Time (2554366) 12.00 The Big Comty Couch (531063) 12.30 The Little Princess (7239124). 1.30 Breakers (9506636) 3.40 Herry's Cat (266927) 4.00 Worzel Gummidge (544589). 4.30 High Five (5434873), 5.00 Raw Replay (5308328) 7.00 Close. **CARLTON SELECT**

CARLTON SELECT
5.00 What's Cooking? (67958231), 5.30 Byker
Grove (2451873), 6.00 Byker Grove (24518786),
6.30 A Kind of Living (24532386), 7.00 Flying
Start (67978095), 7.30 Birds of a Feather
(2452250), 8.00 Murder Mystery Weekend:
Livejoy (93960832), 9.00 Livejoy (93957328),
10.00 Pie in the Sky (9395045), 11.00 Ruth
Rendel: A Guilty Thing Surprised (46720950),
12.00 Ruth Rendel: A Guilty Thing Surprised
(1050105), 1.00 Ruth Rendel: A Guilty Thing
Surprised (58572564), 2.00 Close.

CARLTON WORLD
7.00 Fair Cops (\$159182), 7.30 Flying Cops (\$440434), 8.00 Court TV (2222415), 9.00 The Verdict (\$249589), 9.30 Soci (\$15618), 10.00 Mindhulbers (\$326724), 10.30 Febr Cops (\$302144), 11.00 Court TV (\$931980), 12.00 Close

6.00 The Tidings (48777144) 6.30 Birky Bil (62003279) 7.00 Tabaluga (4573720) 7.30 Looney Tunes (46732057) 8.00 The Powerputif Girls (51396434) 8.30 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (51395705) 9.00 Deuter's Laboratory (51386057) 9.30 Ed, Edd n' Eddy (78840692). 10.00 Cow and Chicken (62857231) 10.30 I Am Wessel (5135569), 11.00 Superman (4394063). 11.30 Batman (43941892). 12.00 The Flintstones

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 England except: 4.40 Final Score (2624705), 5.00 Northern reland Results (4328), 5.30 Final Score (512057), 5.45

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 England except 4.40 Affermon Sportscene (3766057). S.10 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (2908927). 5.45 Reporting Scotland (535908). 10.40 Sportscene - Match of the Day (7289960). 11.50 Real Women (788657). 12.40 Film: Hustle (907922). 2.40 News 24 (34647941). BBC1 WALES

As BBC1 England except: 4.40 Final Score (2633453). 4.55 Wales on Saturday (6129328). 5.45 Wales Today (535908).

As LWT except: 12.36 Stepping the World.

Travel series. Featuring a visit to Tenerife which
boasts black volcanic sand and man-made

12.10 Dog and Dmosaur (9373-163) 2.55 The Biz (ITITIST), 3.20 Stoggers (6750279) 3.45 L Dog Tom and Jerry (4673652) 1.00 Scooting Home (8350345), 635 Mottch of the Day Greats (1757527) 5.15 Besterosa Dogs (17572148), 6.30 TD Per Cert (5437960) 7.00 Pick of the Week (83572078), 11.45 Row Z (9365398) 12.15 Closs.

BBC NEWS 2.4

6.00 BBC News (3750705), 7.00 BBC News (135892) 7.30 Talking Noves (1305927) 8.00 Pick of the Week (277073), 9.00 BBC News (446366) 9.30 Straight Talk (5830328), 10.00 BBC News (447637) 12.00 BBC News (447637) 12.00 BBC News (447637) 12.00 BBC News (447637) 12.00 BBC News (4496529), 10.30 Dester's Laboratory (1583144), 100 BBC News (15659314.4) 100 BBC News (1565931.4.00 BBC News (15707328), 10.00 BBC News (

CHALLENGE TV
S.00 The Garnes Room (6836453) \$.15 Strike it Lucky (768837). \$.45 The Garnes Room (688569; 8.00 Family Fortunes (9899; 8.30 The Garnes Room (68569; 8.00 Family Fortunes (9899; 8.30 The Garnes Room (377231). 6.45 Candid Carnera (71960). 7.25 The Carnes Room (53347). 7.25 Rol with It (738329). 7.35 The Crystal Maze (75540). 9.00 The Garnes Room (543637). 7.25 Rol with It (738329). 7.35 The Crystal Maze (75540). 9.00 The Garnes Room (543637). 7.25 The Krypton Factor (283322). 9.45 The Garnes Room (544521). 10.00 Candid Carnera (82908). 70.30 Celebrity TV Bioopers (70347). 11.20 Don't Feed the Gondoles (599057). 12.00 Carnal Knowledge (70293). 1.00 3.20 Karaoke Challenge (64854). 2.30 Studs (43361). 1.00 Smyly Irresistable (20381). 3.30 Give Us a Clue (2030). 5.00 – 6.00 Shopping with Screenshop (58583).

CHALLENGE DIGITAL
DIGITAL ONLY FROM 600AM – 500PM

Shopping with Screenshop (8856).

CHALLENGE DIGITAL

DIGITAL ONLY FROM 600AM - 500PM

6.00 Take a Letter (3163) 6.30 Fitteen to One (32329), 7.00 Second Guess (6328), 7.20 A Word in Your Ear (7363), 8.00 Three Pursuit (5882), 8.30 Gladiators 2000 (5963), 9.00 Fitteen to One (4451), 9.30 Bloodbusters (85347), 10.00 Concentration (56908), 10.30 Say the Word (7027), 11.00 Gave Us a Clue (85434), 11.30 Second Guess (6863), 12.00 Friteen to One (61279), 12.30 Family Fortunes (8963), 1.00 Karaoka Chalenge (33527), 1.30 Say the Word (88434), 2.00 Thrial Pursuit (7678), 2.30 Candid Camera (980), 3.00 Gave Us a Clue (9453), 3.30 Don't Drink the Water (3705), 4.90 Love at First Sight (5540), 4.30 Studis (1724), 5.00 The Games Room (6836453), 5.35 Strike It Lucky (758637), 5.45 The Games Room (683646), 5.00 The Games Room (677231), 6.45 Candid Camera (74960), 723 The Games Room (253347), 7.25 Rol with it (738329), 7.25 The Crystal Maze (575540), 9.00 The Games Room (593163), 9.15 The Krypton Factor (263222), 9.45 The Games Room (344521), 10.00 Candid Camera (82909), 10.30 Celebrity TV Bloopers (370347), 11.20 Don't Feed the Gondolas (509057), 12.00 Close DISCOVERY CHANNEL. Cassc Toons (#5545), 12.00 Casse
EUROSPORT
6.15 Motorcycing (74508786), 9.00 Yoz Action
(19927), 10.00 Mountain Bike (81095), 10.30
Othroad (58502), 11.30 Motorcycing (811136),
1.45 Cycling (462990), 3.30 Tenns ATP Tou
(48502), 5.00 Football (37288), 7.00 Marnai Arts
(52434), 8.00 Strength (61182), 9.00 Boung
(58618), 10.00 Motorcycing (51705), 11.00 Tenns
ATP Tour (27273), 12.00 Bowing (32019), 1.00
Close 3.00 – 8.30 Motorcycing (5210903),
2511 8482501480 DISCOVERY CHANNEL

4.00 Weapons of War (081057), 5.00 Battlefields (6510518), 6.00 Battlefields (6545163), 7.00 Lost Treasures of the Ancient World (8441453), 8.00 Black Box (8-27673), 9.00 Pole Postton (8447637), 10.00 Crocodile Hunter (8440724) 11.00 Discover Magazine (3753075) 12.00 Battlefields (6785922) 1.00 Battlefields (6597274), 2.00 Clos

(6597274) 2.00 Close.

DISCOVERY DIGITAL

DIGITAL ONLY FROM 800AM - 400PM
8.00 Solar Empire (870645), 9.00 Outback Investogator (783321), 10.00 Science Frontiers (3792347), 11.00 First Flights (390705), 11.30 First Flights (139134), 12.00 Betty's Voyage (5656279), 1.00 Seawings (5655927), 2.00 The Specialists (5233431, 3.00 Usaster (5529366), 3.30 Disaster (1443640), 4.00 Weapons of War (138057), 5.00 Bartlefields (650658), 6.00 Bartlefields (550568), 6.00 Bartlefields (564563), 7.00 Lost Treasures of the Anoert World (8447453), 8.00 Back Box (8427873), 9.00 Pole Postbon (8447637), 10.00 Crocodie Hunter (8440724), 11.00 Discove (3753075), 12.00 Bartlefields (6785922), 1.00 Battlefields (6597274), 2.00 Close.

DISCOVERY HOME & LEISURE BATTONICIES (059724); 200 (1098.

DISCOVERY HOME & LEISURE
DIGTAL ONLY FROM 400PM - 12MDNG-17
6.00 Garden Rescue (174873), 6.30 Garden
Rescue (373453); 7.90 Tool Time (3744328), 7.30
These Four Webs (3756163), 8.00 Gimme Shelter
(778502); 8.30 Wood West (776733), 9.00
Go Fishing (7781453), 9.30 Hooked on Fething
(563329); 10.00 Charlie West Fishing (5122705),
10.30 Selmon Run with Lack Charlion

Eek'strevagerza (5755298) 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroaches (824502) 7.00 Close.

GRANADA PLUS
6.00 Hart to Hart (657540), 7.00 Plus on Plus (146598) 7.30 That's My Boy (1444705) 8.00 Watching (1783076) 8.20 Bowler (1780347) 9.00 The Avengers (3248453) 10.00 The Persuaders (144088) 11.00 Man in a Sultcase (1453453) 12.00 Fridlers Three (1786163), 12.30 Emmerdale (7364892) 3.00 Sonanza (4570347). (9623329), 10.30 Salmon Run with Jack Charton (77286347), 10.55 The Horne & Lessure House (84755453), 11.00 Time Team (376561), 12.00 Antiques Trail (7778869), 12.30 Routes (9637144), 1.00 Doorstep DNY (3776927), 1.30 Christians Drum Linder (9635311), 2.00 A Weekend's Work (5500231), 2.30 Our House (1448035), 3.00 Two's Country (522365), 3.30 Time Traveller (1443540), 4.00 Close.

PICK OF THE DAY

BOTH JULIA ROBERTS (right) a few years in the box-office doldrums before the comedy My Best Friend's Wedding (8pm Sky Premier) spectacularly relaunched their careers. In this satellite premiere from PJ Hogan, Roberts plays a restaurant

woo him away from his fiancée

FILMFOUR
6.00 The Navy vs. the Night Monsters (1969)
(97440827) 7.35 The Sheer Thref (7654811)
8.00 A Life Less Ordinary (1997) (8060231)
10.00 Leon (1994) (6137960), 12.00 (6014 (1980)
(4692749), 2.00 The Dead Zone (1963) (9574816)
3.45 - 6.00 Other People's Money (1991)

FOX KIDS

DISNEY CHANNEL

(Cameron Diaz), she calls on a gay and Rupert Everett had spent friend (Everett) to pose as her boyfriend. In just a few scenes Everett steals the film.

The assassination of the American president John F Kennedy, has been the source of many conspiracy theories, which were further stirred up critic who has just four days by Oliver Stone's movie, JFK. to halt the planned wedding A two-part film, The Men Who of the man she loves (Dermot Killed Kennedy (8pm Bravo), Mulroney). In an attempt to investigates fresh evidence. JAMES RAMPTON

DISNEY CHANNEL
6.00 Gummi Bears (9344618) 6.25 Classic Toons (929881) 6.35 Talespin (8899144) 7.00 Classic Toons (1760434) 7.10 Alactón - the Series (566618) 7.35 till Dalmatharis (957095) 8.00 The Little Memaid (55618) 8.30 Hercules - the Series (54989) 9.00 Ari Antach (2844705) 9.35 Doug (9257927) 10.00 Recess (657673) 10.15 Pepper Am (698734) 10.30 Nact's Newt (67453) 11.00 Smart Guy (52960) 11.30 Teen Angel (60989) 12.90 Boy Meets World (58705) 12.30 Brotherly Love (83989) 1.00 Omcaus (80453) 1.30 Amazing America (45427927) 1.55 Winnie the Pooh (82906298) 2.10 Bite Size (17103540) 2.20 Bear in the Big Blue House (80444637) 2.45 Winnie the Pooh (82906298) 3.10 Gratin (30 The Little Mermaid (3279) 3.30 God Troop (3601) 4.00 till Dalmattams (9366) 4.30 Hercules (8250) 5.00 Cresh Zone (8724) 5.30 Boy Meets World (2845) 7.00 Films One Hundred and One Dalmatians (9366) 4.30 Hercules (8250) 5.00 Teen Angel (645) 6.30 Boy Meets World (2845) 7.00 Films One Hundred and One Dalmatians (9561) (525036) 8.20 Honey, I Sminh the Kids (345279 9.05 Dinosaurs (267057) 10.00 Home Improvement (59434) 10.30 The Worder Years (6882) 11.50 Classic Toons (65515) 12.00 Close EUROSPORT The Adventures of Shartock Holmes (7903892). 9.00 The Dame Edna Expenence (7890325). 10.00 Frantos Howerd Strikes Again (1787892). 10.30 Danny Baker On... (7796540). 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors until 200am (9583347). 2.00 Close

HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00 Tales of the Gun (3943989), 5.00 Tales of the Gun (2056250), 6.00 Tales of the Gun (2573298), 7.00 Bography: Oliver Cromwell (6701569), 8.00 Close. ITV 2 DIGITAL ONLY

FTV 2 DIGITAL ONLY
9.25 Videotech (17/4950) 9.55 Sport in Action
(9331732) 10.00 Board Wild (89537) 10.30
NBA 99 San Antonio Spurs vs Houston Rockets
(5444) 11.30 Futbol Mundial (#2569) 12.00
Wildtrack (3940502) 12.20 The Adventures of
Captain Pugwash (9553540) 12.30 Humcanes
(32231) 1.00 Adventures of Captain Pugwash
(1796796) 1.30 Sithlant Creatures (4709250)
1.25 It's a Mystery (4021366) 2.25 The Scoop
(2025279) 2.45 Football First (75777057) 5.30
NBA 99 (1732) 6.00 NBA 99 New York Kincks vs
Charlotte Homets (40250) 7.00 Survival Special
(50779) 8.00 In the Wild (69724) 9.00 Double
Bil (62911) 11.00 Gods Grit (27255) 12.00 The
Heunted Fishtank (34816) 12.30 The Mox
(62664) 1.30 NBA Action (14274) 2.00 Close.
LIVING

6.00 Canil Cook, Won't Cook (7198231) 6.30 Animal Rescue (1849347) 7.00 Bug Alert (6631415) 7.25 Callou (1498453) 7.30 Polis Dot (65345), 7.25 Calicu (1496453), 7.30 Polka Dot Shorts (480453), 7.40 Johnson and Friends (480445), 7.50 Babaloos (476989), 7.55 Practical Perenting (4708960), 8.00 t0 plus 2 (1721655), 8.10 Trny and Crew '98 (3814231), 8.15 Trny Tales (476565), 8.25 My Zoo (2275750, 8.35 Trny and Crew (7997163), 8.50 Practical Parenting (8162076), 9.00 The Heat is On (3839927), 9.30 Can't Cook, Wortt Cook (2500811), 10.00 Home and Away (527453), 12.30 Filters Belle Start (1941) (10825873), 2.10 Filters Beloved Intide (1959), 838423391, 2.40 Maury Povich Double Bit (55646619), 6.20 Michael Cole Double Bit (55646619), 6.20 Michael Cole Double Bit (56726289), 8.00 Ally McBeal (640683), 9.00 Jeny Springer Uncut (72545908), 10.45 Entertainment Now! (7020327), 11.00 Ses Life Down Under (3477786), 12.00 Close.

26.00 Med for Hits (822927). **9.00** All Time Top 10 6.00 Med for His (822927) 3.00 All Time Top 10 Europe Musec Awards Performances (59569). 10.00 MTVs European Top 20 (81495), 12.20 MTV News Weekend Edition (63637), 12.30 Say What? (61521), 1.00 All-Time Top Ten Special Effects Videos (86076), 2.00 The Lick R 3 B Chert (59095), 3.00 All-Time Top Ten Michael Jackson Video (79537), 4.00 Select MTV (2927), 6.00 MTV News Weekend Edition (1347), 6.30 MTV News Weekend Edition (1347), 6.30 MTV News Weekend Edition (8147), 1.00 Chert (92076), 9.00 Celebrity Death Match (54328), 9.30 MTV News Weekend Edition (8144), 11.00 The Grind Double 88 (72434), 12.00 brand: new The Grind Double BE (73434), 12.00 brand: new (7355), 1.00 Saturday Night Music Max (74670), 3.00 Crill Out Zone (98187), 5.00 - 6.00 Night Videos (51941).

FOX KIDS
6.00 Adventures of Dodo (68261163), 6.05
Masked Rider (50978347), 6.30 Beetleborgs
Meralia (50081908), 6.55 Power Rangers Turbo
(3822160), 7.45 Sever Surier (5514927), 8.10
Mortal Kombei (242434), 8.35 Mowgi: The New
Adventures of the Jungle Book (5903347), 9.00
Goosebumps (8841637), 9.25 Eene, Indiana: the
Other Dimension (8820144), 9.50 Home to Renti
(3902347), 10.00 Sam and Max (4694453),
10.25 Mad Jack the Firate (237288), 10.50 The
Secret Files of the Spy Dogs (34146075), 11.00
Life with Louse (423006), 11.25 Dennis and
Grasher (78293347), 11.50 its Your Call: Hero
Turtles - the Next Mutation or Masked Pilder
(55847811), 1.55 The Incredible Hulk (55363366),
2.20 Iron Man (62898057), 2.45 Fantastic Four
(102163), 3.10 The X Men (6621347), 3.30 Fo.
Kds Xpress (539601), 3.35 Spiderman
(574057), 4.00 Goosebumps (685226), 4.25
Eene, Indiane: the Other Dimension (9775521),
4.50 Casper (5789296), 5.00 Dennis and
Grasher (536960), 5.30 Ace Ventura (546927),
6.00 Donkey kong Country (545940), 6.30
Eekstravaganza (5795298), 6.55 Oggy and the
Cockroaches (824502), 7.00 Close. **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00 Flood (2244637), 8.00 Ministure Dynasties - China's Insects (222057), 8.00 The Secret Leopard (2233521), 10.00 Mummes of the Talka Makan (2243908), 11.00 Mystery of the Nazional Lines (329328), 11.30 Myths and Garats (6556502), 12.00 Beast of Barda (4276564), 1.00 Close.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DIGITAL

Insecta - Living Art (9952453). 1.30 Heart of the Congo (5125095). 2.00 The Secret World of the Probosos Monkeys (6568347). 3.00 Side by Side (322362). 4.00 Gnczly and Man: Uneasy Truce (324327). 5.00 Shark Files (5155095). 6.00 The Secret World of the Probosos Monkeys (50145), 7.00 Flood (224637, 8.00 kinizure Dynasues China's Insects (2220057), 9.00 The Secret Leopard (2233521), 10.00 Mummes of the Talda Leopard (223383) 10.00 Miummes of the Taka Makan (2243908) 11.00 Mystery of the Nazza Lines (229328), 11.30 Myster and Garnts (6556502) 12.00 Beast of Bardia (4276564) 10.00 The Secret Lacpard (50735-5), 2.00 Miummies of the Takla Makan (4058570), 3.00 Mystery of the Nazza Lines (1857926), 3.30 Myster and Ganta (55277-9), 4.00 Beast of Bardia (3674800), 5.00 Close.

NICKELODEON NICK ELODEON
7.00 Tales from the Cryptikeeper (272'9), 7.30
Brothers Fub (1774), 8.00 The Journey of Alien
Strange (1982), 8.30 Sister Sister (1963), 9.00
Kenan and Kel (1568), 9.30 Sabrina, the
Teenage Witch (4336'5), 9.30 Sabrina, 194569,
10.30 Hey Arnold (1982/7), 11.00 Angry Beavers
and Hey Arnold (1984), 11.30 Caddog (17373),
12.00 The Wild Thomberrys (292'79), 12.30
Rockos Modern Life (1783), 1.00 Kablami
(1950), 1.30 The Ren and Stringy Show (46434),
2.00 Nickelodeon's Top 20 (95298), 3.00 Kanan
and Kel (7453), 3.30 Kanan and Kel (6453), 4.00
Sister Sister (5960), 4.30 Sister Sister (144),
5.00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (2938), 5.30
Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (5744), 6.00 Moesha
(2637), 6.30 Nick (1985), 2.00 Close.
PARAMOUNT COMEDY

(2637) 6.30 Nick News (1988) 7.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY
CHAMNEL
7.00 Cureless (9434) 7.30 Caroline in the Cdy
(2873) 8.00 Mad about You (8182) 8.30 Spin
(7) (4989) 9.00 Cheers (3693) 9.30 Cheers
(67927) 10.00 Cheers (20908) 10.30 Cheers
(95188) 11.00 Fraser (31453) 11.30 Whose Line
is II Arryway? (83453) 12.00 Film: The Purple
flose of Caro (1985) (730) 1.30 Club Class
(2910) 2.00 Almost Perfect (1964) 2.30 Tbs
and Fibs (24699) 3.00 Mork and Mindy (95651)
3.30 Abboti & Costello (1965), 4.00 Close.

SKY BOX OFFICE 1

SKY BOX OFFICE 1
12.00 Deconstructing Harry (1997) (4256954).
2.00 Deconstructing Harry (1997) (6804293).
4.00 - 6.00 Deconstructing Harry (1997) (5902297).

(6312293)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2
8.00 Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evit (1997) (5822415), 11.00 Close, 6.00 Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evit (1997) (53228911), 9.00 Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evit (1997) (5849908), 12.00 Close, SKY BOX OFFICE 3
6.00 Titanic (1997) (795732), 9.30 Titanic (1997) (2773279), 1.00 Titanic (1997) (333714), 4.30 Titanic (1997) (325569), 8.00 Titanic (1997) (335827), 3.00 Close,

Close.

SKY BOX OFFICE 4

8.00 Hard Ran (1997) (2282521) 10.00 Hard Ran (1997) (4675434) 12.00 Close. 4.00 - 6.00 Hard Ran (1997) (8312293). SKY PREMIER

SKY PREMER:
6.00 The Secret Agent Cub (1996) (70863).
8.00 Indecretion of an American Housewife (1998) (20960). 10.00 Free Willy 3: the Rescue (1997) (59540). 12.00 In like Plym (1985) (43811).
2.00 Indecretion of an American Housewife (1998) (1852). 4.00 The Secret Agent Cub (1996) (1857). 6.00 Free Willy 3: the Rescue (1997) (43960). 7.30 p.review (5563). 8.00 My Best Friend's Wedding (1997) (5582). See Pick of the Day 10.00 Independence Day (1996) (85481434). 100AM - 500AM | 100AM - 500AM | 12.25 Extreme Measures (1996) (205941), 2.25 | 11.00 Tiger's Eye (3227347), 11.30 Mother Bear | 12.00 Shark Files (5105231), 1.00 | 100 Shark Fi

SKY MOVEMAX
6.30 Heroes (#1453) 7.00 Bionic Everafter (#994)
(78637) 9.00 Man of Miracles (#986) (#2762)
11.00 License to Drive (#888) (#3076) 1.00
Bionic Everafter (#994) (\$3298) 3.00 The End of
the Goldon Weather (#997) (#9853.298) 4.50
Behind the Planet of the Apes (*3147589) 7.00
Man of Miracles (#998) (#78691, 8.00) Tingger
Effect (#986) (#7505724) 10.40 Hard Eight #897)
(71724347) 12.25 Caupht (#986) (#72274) 2.15
Munder in My Mind (#997) (286670) 3.45 - 8.00
Kansas City (*996) (#879670)
SKY CINEMA
11.00 A Farewell to Arms (*1957) (88657434) 1.35

SKY CONEMA
11.00 A Farewell to Arms (1957) (68557434), 1.35
The Musc Man (1962) (36764434), 4.00
Spelbound (1945) (7925521), 6.00 The Yellow
Canary (1944) (5057142), 8.00 Rebel without a
Cause (1955) (6506237), 10.00 Bullett (1958)
(3655786), 11.55 Two for the Road (1957)
(7793705), 1.45 The Fend Who Walked the West
(1958) (2311212), 3.30 The Music Man (1962)
(96708651), 5.35 Close. SKY ONE

(9670865) \$.55 Close.

SKY ONE
ZOO Wher-a-Mess (\$2057), 7.30 Superhuman
Sarrurai Syber Squart (64882), 8.00 The
Adventures of Smbod (32415), 9.00 The
Simpsons (9434), 9.30 Pokemon (83366),
10.00 Shadow Raiders (47637), 10.30 Godzila
(5618), 11.00 Westing (73541, 12.00 Westing
(7398), 1.00 7th Heaven (82837), 2.00
America's Dumbest Criminals (5076), 2.30
Pokemon (1986), 3.00 Godzila (7811), 3.30
Shadow Raiders (8811), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep
Space Marker (8811), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep
Space Marker (8811), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep
Space (1188), 8.00 Deting Hell (19076), 9.00
Pitters: See No Evil Hear No Evil (1988),
2047763), 10.45 JAG (100291), 11.45 Showbiz
Weekly (857095), 12.15 Unsolved Mystenes
(33930), 1.93 The Extraordinary (338944), 2.15 8.00 Long Play (4509748),
SKY SPORTS 1
6.00 Hold the Back Page (84502), 7.00 Sky
Sports Centre (99724), 8.00 Aerobics (17250),
8.30 Racing News (10521), 9.00 Super League
Bradford vs Haitan (84231), 10.00 Australian
Rugby League (65569), 12.00 Glatite Socier
Saurday (858344), 5.30 European Tour Gott
(855960), 8.00 Spanish Football (47502), 10.00
Spanish Football (25300), 3.00 Fight Night (6530), 3.00 Fight Night (65300), 3.00 Fight Night (6500), 3.00 Fight Nigh

(6477) 5.00 - 6.00 Max Power (6624).

SKY SPORTS 2
6.00 Sports Unimited (6714144) 7.00 Aerobos Cz Style (671647) 7.30 Racing News (2426732).

8.00 Soccer AM (557889) 12.00 Australian Rules Football (3812453) 2.00 Rugby Union (215782) 4.30 World Wide Rugby - Super 12s Tournament (6735837) 6.00 NFL Europe Berlin vs Scotland (489182) 9.00 Ford Golf USA (8839960) 11.00 Baseball (6826502) 2.00 X-Zone (4751477) 2.30 Rugby Union Update (441016) 4.00 - 6.00 Ford Golf USA (4764941)

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 Max Power (76832873) 1.00 X-Zone (46745279) 1.30 Cricket (59388811), 7.30 International Cricket West Indies vs Australia (98968763) 10.30 Baseball May, (5)35328), 11.00 Inside the PGA Senior Tour (43834502), 11.30 Rebel Sports (62065873), 12.00 Close, TNT CLASSIC MOVIES

TNT CLASSIC MOVIES
6.30 Bridge to the Sun (1951) [54595502, 8.30
The Adventures of Huckleberry Firm (1960) [1957507], 10.35
Follow the Boys (1963) [79875618], 12.00
God is My Co-Piot (1945) [29714279], 1.30
The Naked Spur (1953) [84221724], 3.00
The Opposite Sex (1956) [90944298], 5.00
Bridge to the Sun (1961) [51377786], 7.00
Follow There and Have Not (1944) [46724786], 9.00
Fame (1980) [56773415], 11.45
Hearts of the West (1975) (97708328), 14.50
or of Our Spies is Missing (1966) (30512632), 5.00
6.45
Vazation from Marriage (1945) (69677038),
TROUBLE TROUBLE

TROUBLE
7.00 USA High (3764182), 7.30 USA High (3750989), 8.00 Blast (7762328), 8.30 Moves, Garnes and Videos (7794927), 9.00 Sweet Valley High (7785279), 9.30 Sweet Valley High (655382), 10.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (87231), 10.30 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (777853), 11.00 In the House (387231), 11.30 In the House (387233), 11.30 In the House (388393), 12.00 Weird Science (5654298), 1.00 Heartbreak High (5654853), 2.00 Blesh (5540857), 2.30 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (656882), 3.30 Room Reiders (6480705), 3.45 Sugars Real Life Stories (6480705), 4.00 In the House (426873), 4.30 In the House (426873), 4.30 In the House (426873), 5.00 Heartbreak High (5649989), 7.00 USA High (6508973), 7.30 USA High (6508973), 7.30 USA High (6508973), 7.30 USA High (6508773), 7.30 USA High (6508773), 7.30 USA High (6508773), 7.30 USA TROUBLE DIGITAL

DIGITAL ONLY FROM 600AM - 700AM AND BOOPM - 12MIDNIGHT Make K-731238, 6.45 its in the Jeans (2233453), 7.00 USA High (376482), 7.30 USA (90083670), 12.30 Midnight Special (22975564), High (3750889), 8.00 Blast (7782328), 8.30 USA (90083670), 12.30 Midnight Special (21975564), 100 - 6.00 Dlaco Party Alf-Nighter (55389670), 100 - 6.00 Dlaco Party Alf-Nighter (55

Movies. Games and Videos (779-1927). 9.00 Sweet Valley High (778-279). 9-30 Sweet Valley High (788-279). 9-30 Sweet Valley High (5653-192). 10.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Ar (779-185). 11.00 In the House (1387-231). 11.30 In the House (1388-960). 12.00 Blast (850-4057). 2-30 Fresh Prince of Bel Ar (8516-892). 3-30 Room Raiders (848070-5). 3-45 Real Life Stores (8489-860). 4-00 In the House (1429-1873). 4-30 In the House (1429-1873). 4-

11.00 Heartbreak High (3740502), 12.00 Close.

UK ARENA
3.00 The First, the Last. My Everything (4521).
3.30 The Arena 100 (8873), 4.00 Reviews You Can Use (6087569), 4.20 k d lang - Live in Stiney (4571347), 5.15 Classic Albums (5436415).
6.10 Motown Live (102705), 7.00 (840 (62386), 8.00 Lawrence Durrell - a Smile in the Minds Eye (85768), 9.00 Marty (23868), 9.35 C Milliagan (600705), 10.10 Filting Priest (1994) (22221), 12.10 (840 (808683), 1.05 Classic Albums (1724545), 2.00 Marty (59822), 2.30 C Milliagan (45729), 3.00 Close.

UK GOLD UK GOLD

7.00 Angel: (3/46766), 7.30 Neighbours
Combus (79755085), 9.25 Dallas Omnibus
(5/022502), 12.40 EastEnders Omnibus
(7/10927) 3.00 The Bill Omnibus (40/19250),
5.25 Butterfies (2006298), 8.05 Filims: The
Great Waldo Pepper (1975) (43779453), 8.00
What a Carry On (9.2866/83), 8.35 Carroti's
Commercial Breakdown 3 (12596/188), 9.40 Red
Dwarf VI (9308-15), 10.20 Monty Python's Pyma
Carous (2259521), 11.00 Live at Jongleurs
(60/19453), 11.35 The Young Ones (2072786),
12.20 Filims Sweet Liberty (1986) (3/28496),
2.15 Rock Goes to College (980/1564), 3.00 –
Z.00 Shopping with Screenshop (4045354),
UK HORIZONS
7.00 Get Going with UK Horizons (8664279),

UK HORIZONS
7.00 Get Going with UK Hortzons (8364279),
9.00 Kamisuze (4928304) 10.00 Return to
Hroshma (864378), 11.00 Top Gear GTI
(8656250) 12.00 Tomorrow's World Plus
(8467724) 1.00 Great Raskway Journeys
(8483144) 2.00 Face to Face with David
Atterborough (3530845), 2.40 Born to Be Wid
(9762250), 3.00 Where Lemmings Dare
(8589386), 3.30 Reef Encounter (9887329), 4.00
Life on Earth (6:60298, 5.00 Animal Hospital
(1589881), 5.30 Robot Wars (889927), 6.00
Columbus and the Age of Discovery (8403969),
7.00 Waleria, Battle of the Mercolins (8093569),
8.00 The Private Life of Plants (8079889), 9.00
Arport (6:58182, 9.30 Lous Theroor's Weet
Weekends (1625832), 10.30 Top Gear GTI
(1018076), 11.30 Shuaton Vacant (4906927),
12.15 Southon Vacant (9385318), 1.00 Close.
UK STYLE

12.15 Soustion Vacant (\$155318), 1.00 Close.

UK STYLE
7.00 The Ar Show (8660453), 7.30 Coest to Coast (\$649960), 8.00 Country Tracks (2978637), 8.30 Tales from the Riverbank (2978608), 9.00 A Golfer's Travels (2998940), 9.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (3575502), 10.30 Gardening Neighbours (2998144, 11.00 The Flower Show (5148076), 11.30 Gardening Places (5149705), 12.00 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week (2912724), 12.30 Gardeners' World (8487347), 1.00 The Air Show (8668724), 1.30 Coast to Coast (6496618), 2.00 Country Tracks (3284219), 2.30 Tales from the Riverbank (987569), 3.00 A Golfer's Travels (4739304), 3.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (3595366), 4.30 Gardening Neighbours (9897705), 5.00 The Plower Show (284499), 5.30 Growing Places (9888057), 6.00 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week (9818269), 6.30 Gardeners' World (9882250), 7.00 The Air Show (9884256), 7.30 Coast to Coast (9898434). 6.30 Gardeners' World (8892250), 7.00 The Air Show (9884255), 7.30 Coest to Coest (9898434), 8.00 Country Tracks (3389863), 8.30 Tales from the Riverbank (8139160), 9.00 A Golfer's Travels (819540), 9.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (827250), 10.30 Gardening Neighbours (2998873), 11.00 The Flower Show (6130057), 11.30 Growing Places (8947705), 12.00 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week (9831690), 12.30 Gardener's World (2026670), 1.00 Close.

VH-1
6.00 Breaklast in Bed (58674182), 9,00 Greatest
Hits of... Movies (43458163), 9,30 Talk Music
(9822076), 10,00 Something for the Weekend
(47677502), 11,00 Classic 80s Chart (47697869),
12,00 Ten of the Best Huggy Bear (19845827),
1,00 Greatest Hits of... Disco (4769782), 1,30
Pop-Up Video: Women First Special (9822183),
2,00 American Classic (75495502), 3,00 Albund
Chart Show (17295085), 4,00 Disco Party
Weekend (16839705), 8,00 Midnight Special
(86009540), 8,30 Midnight Special (86094347),
9,00 The Kate and Jono Show (93164521),
10,00 Bob Mills: Big 90, (83774908), 11,00 Vi-1Spice (4278223), 22,00 Midnight Roceid

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

beaches. (30250). 1.05 Anglia News and Weather (5468811). 2.15 Campus Cops (334569). 2.45 Going Wad (5900415). 2.55 Fitm: City beneath the Set. Deep sea treasure seless strike trouble in the Caribbean. Colcurtui but uncommoring adventure, with Robert Ryan. Anthony Quinn. 146956219. 5.05 Anglia News and Sport (9823368). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4103038). 2.50 Box Office America (2018787). 315 World Fronties (1984). 3.45 CD HTV WALES
As LWT except: 12.30 Mones, Games and Videos (30250). 1.05 HTV News and Weather (15466811), 2.15 Prate TV (334569), 2.45 Warner Brothers Carboon (590045), 2.55 Anworl Action adventure senes about a hi-lach helicopter and its herioc pilor (6904786), 3.50 TimeCop Sci-fi series about a cop who thes to prevent currinals from using time travel to alter the past and change the world. (7846908), 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Results (9823368) 125 The Jerry Springer Show (103038), 2.50 **1.25** The Jerry Springer Show (4103038). **2.50** Box Office America (4746767). **3.15** World Football (3994), 3.45 CD UK (1567)25), 4.40 Pushing the Limits - the Making of Eraser (4298594), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (9372)25).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 12.30 Bissed Out.
Sense in which members of the public get a
chance to prove themselves in the media. In this crance to prove themselves in the media, in this edition, three more people compete to present the programme with Vanessa Bewley and Smon Yinght nest week, (30250), 2.15 Movies, Games and Videos (334569), 2.45 Prate TV (325540), 3.15 Warner Brothers Cartoon (644366), 3.25 Driosaurs (6439657), 5.05 HTV West News and Smoth Programme (6439667). Sports Results (9823368) MERIDIAN

As LWT except: 12.30 Per Pressure. The programme that presents the arts from a youthful point of view with fast-moving, up-to-the-minute reports on top bands, events and

trends. (30250). **1.05** Mendian News and Weather (1546881). **2.15** The Willis Compon Army and Navy Challenge (3843776). **5.05** Mendian News and Weather (3623368). **1.25** The Jerry Springer Show (4103038), 2.50 Box Office America (4746767) 3J5 World Football (39941) 3.45 CD UK (1567125), 4.40 Pushing the Limits - the Making of Eraser (42985941), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (9372125).

WESTCOUNTRY AS LWT except: 12.30 Moves, Games and Videos (30250), 1.05 Westcountry News (15-68811), 2.15 Power Rangers in Space Specia. A four-edition special of the adventures with the Power Rangers as they travel to the furthest reaches of space on their never-ending quest for

1.00 Sport on 5. Football: goal news, re-

ports and commentary on a top game in the Premiership. Fixtures include Middles-

brough v Arsenai, Blackburn v Liverpool,

Spurs v West Ham, and Everton v Charl-

8.30 Seven Brides for One Brother. (R)

6.00 Sareh Lucas. 8.00 Countdown. 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike

Read. 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Clas-

sics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music.

2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 - 6.00

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Pate and Geoff. 10.00 Harriet

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Soundbyte. 1.45 Waveguide. 2.00 The World Today.

Scott. 2.00 Rock and Roll Football. 5.30 Wheels of Steel. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace.

ton. Plus news from the league.

10.00 Late Night Currie.

CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)

VIRGIN RADIO

(198kHz LW)

2.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

1.00 Up A! Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

6.06 Six-O-Six

9.00 Global

peace. (325250). 3.55 TimeCop (7/50453). 5.05 Westcountry News (3823363). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (400338). 2.50 Bio Office America (476/577). 3.15 World Football (39941). 3.45 CD UK (1567125), 4.40 Pushing the Limits - the Making of Eraser (42985941), 5.05 (TV Nightscreen (9372125). YORKSHIRE

As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs (30250). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (15468811). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (4020732). 5.10 Goals Extra (5161908). TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (15468311), 5.05 North East News and Weather (4020732), 5.10 Full Time (5161908).

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Film: Waterloo

No.3905 Saturday 24 April

Rod Steiger imperious as Napoleon, bouriong back from side on Elba to take on the English in

a meeting heavy with foreboding. The climactic battle is truly something to behold (though horse lovers may blanche). With Christopher Plummer, Jack Hawkins. (71673095). 5.05 Newyddion (4767668). 5.40 Y Cwb Rygbi (37771860). 7.45 Newyddion (68462988). 8.00 Llwylan (17344398). 8.30 0 lym Dote (4155163). 9.00 Dan vr Wyneb (90296328). 8.30 lechyd Da (7034960). 10.15 NYPD Blue. The detectives (7034960). 10.35 NYPD Blue. The defectives question a group of unsavoury suspects after a well-dressor man is found dead in a park. The squad tres to stay optimistic as Simone is told that he will require a heart transplant. (43819502). 11.30 Ardai O'Hanion Live (2898347). 12.30 The Sundays (4320387). 11.5 4 Later: West Heath Yard (18620309). 1.45 4 Later: Mirrorball (18620309). 1.45 1 Later: Mirrorball (1862030). 2.15 Film: 4 Later: To Live and Die in Tam She Tsu (37187729). 4.00 4 Later: Doc Shanne D. Program Cultural review includes Strange D Program. Cultural review includes Alexander Shulgin charting about psychedelic (21062477). 5.15 Close.

RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.BMHz FM)

1.30

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7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris Moyles. 1.00 Emma B at BBC Fashion Week.
3.00 Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart. 5.00 Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Ramping - Lovegroove Dance Party. 9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggee Dancehal Nite. 2.00 The Essential Mix on Tour. 4.00 - 6.30 Annie Nightingsle. RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)

6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show.
10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show.
10.00 Talking Comedy. 1.30 News Huddines. 2.00 Alan Freeman. 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 The Byrds Have Flown. See Pick of the Day. 8.00 Culture Club in Concert. 9.00 Reading Music. 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Nicky Home. 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dutta. RADIO 3

(902-924MHz FM) 9.00 CD Review 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 2.00 Listeners' Choice.

5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 6.00 Performance on 3. More from the Endless Parade festival celebrating British postwar music. Vaughan Williams's Three Shakespeare Songs are a classic example of British choral music com-posed after 1945. Stephen Cleobury performs them at the Royal Festival Hall with the BBC Singers, along with newer works demonstrating the richness and diversity of the British choral scene.

7.00 Fred Hersch. 7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Royal Fastival Hall, London, 'Endless Parade' continues with a new BBC Symphony Orchestra commission from Dav adford alongside classics from the fifties and seventies. Walton's second symphony was premiered in 1960; Britten dedicated his late masterpiece of 1975 - the dramatic carriata 'Phaedra' - to Janet Baker, and Tippett's Triple Concerto of 1979 reflects in its slow movement the composer's then recent discovery of Javanese music. Louise Winter (mezzo), Enesco Trio, BBC Symphony Orchestra/Nicholas Cleobury. David Bedford: The Sultan's Turret (BBC commission). Tippett: Triple Concerto.

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8.15 Angiophiles. Foreign-born artists and thinkers choose their favourite examples of British achievements in the postwar arts. With Philip Dodd. 8.35 Concert, part 2. Britten: Cantata Phaedra', Walton: Symphony No 2. 9.40 A Price Worth Paying. A five-part series in which former Radio 3 controller

(1745757), 3.35 World Football (39941), 3.45 CD UK (1567725), 4.40 Pushing the Limits - the Making of Eraser (4298594), 5.05 TV Nightscreen (8372725)

GENT HALL

As LMT empept: 12-30 Eastern Mx (30250).

105 Central News and Weather (15468811). 2.15

Film: Man About the House (766618). 3.50

TimeCop (7846908). 5.05 Central News.

Weather and Goals Extra (8623383). 8.00 News:

Weather (570811). 4.00 Jobfinder (84800). 5.00

John Drummond takes a critical look at the state of opera in Britain since 1945. 4: 'The Skies Darken'. A look at the contentious issue of funding. Should this relatively expensive form of entertainment continue to attract public subsidy? With the views of George Christie (who runs Glyndebourne Festival Opera without the benefit of public funding), John Tooley and the Earl of Harewood (both former administrators of London's major opera houses), Nicholas Payne (who has recent-ly left Covent Garden for English National Opera), and critic Rodney Milnes. 10.10 Dvorak. String Sextet in A, Op 48. Endelion Quartet and friends. (R) 10.45 Mixing It. Robert Sandall and Mark Russell with an eclectic mix of new music. Guest interviewer Clive Bell talks to David Sylvian, one-time vocalist with rock group Japan, about his new solo album 'Dead Bees on a Cake', which features leading

musiclans including Ryuichi Sakamoto. Marc Ribot and Talvin Singh. 11.30 Jazz on 3. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (924-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing 6.05 Sports Desk. 6.10 Open Country. 6.57 Weather. 9,00 Home Truths. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; The Food Programme. 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News: Money Box.

12.30 The News Quiz. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 145 Any Questions?. 2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870 010 0444 2.30 To Be or Not to Be. 3.00 News; The Saturday Play: Castle 4.00 News; Weekend Woman's Hour.

PICK OF THE DAY

HYPED AS America's answer to The Beatles, the Byrds (right) caught the imagination of Californian hippies in the mid-Sixties. Their cover of Bob Dylan's "Mr Tambourine Man" marked the start of psychedelic rock music and, despite undergoing a series of line-up changes, they made some of the most influential records of the decade. Bob Harris traces their story in The Byrds Have Flown (7pm R2). FIONA STURGES

5.30 Talking Pictures.

5.57 Weather.

5.54 Shipping Forecast.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.45 Hearing with Hegley. (R)

7.45 Sporting Sermons. In the last of

three programmes examining sport and

examines gamesmanship and nominates

Redeeming Features. Piers Plowright visits the BBC sound archives to listen to

9.00 News; Classic Serial: Villette. By

Charlotte Bronte, dramatised in three parts by James Friel. 3: Monsieur Paul.

Lucy's passionate involvement with Mon-sieur Paul deepens, but there are storms

10.15 The 1999 Renth Lectures. Five lec-

ly, tradition and custom are in retreat

tures about aspects of globalisation given by Anthony Giddens. 3: 'Tradition'. Global-

What are the consequences of this and of

the rise of fundamentalism? This lecture

and Library in Delhi and is followed by

questions from an invited audience.

comes from the Nehru Memorial Museum

ahead. With Catherine McCormack,

Joseph Flennes and Harriet Walter.

10.00 News and Weather.

highlights of radio features that have excit-

his world gamesmanship champion

8.00 News: The Archive Hour:

ed him, 4. 'Wonderland'.

its place in our national life, Simon Barnes

7.00 News: Saturday Review.

6.15 The Now Show.



#LOO News; All the Rage, A lour-part senes featuring musical anecdotes from decades past. 3: 1800-1810. David Owen Norris and quests Rachel Cowgil and Tim Blanning revisit the divas and dramas of the first decade of the 19th century. Songs performed by Alison Wells. 11.30 Adventures in Poetry. 12.00 News 12.25 Funerimental Feature: A Gentleman is Not a Pot. Exploring the writings of

12.30 The Late Story: Give Me My Wars. By Diran Adebayo, read by Eddie Nestor. A man with a secret reflects on the underachievements of those in his neigh-

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News 5,35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. **RADIO 4 LW**

12.00 - 12.04 News, Shrpping Forecast.

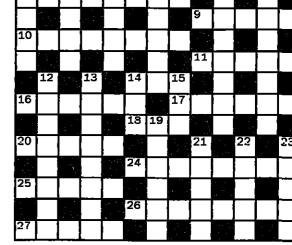
RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 1 6.00 Dirty Tackle 9,00 Chiles on Saturday. 11.00 Sportscall

Confucius and their relevance to today's 2.30 Music Review. 3.00 The World To-day. 3.30 Business Review. 3.45 Letter from America. 4.00 World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Agenda. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 - 6.00 Omnibus.

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk. 8.00 Get Your Krt On with Bob Mills. 11.00 It's Round and White - with Tom Watt. 2.00 Saturday Soccer, 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn 10.00 Dave Barrett. 2.00 - 6.00

> CHESS and BRIDGE have moved to page 9 of 🗸 this section

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Schooner (5) Ducks (8) Perfect (5) 10 Boundless (8)

11 Up above (5) 14 Watering place (3) 16 Balkan country (6) Unstinting (6) 18 Young animal (3)

20 Beverage made from apples (5) 24 Plaintive (8) 25 Filthy (5) 26 Abrupt (8)

DOWN Beau (5) Instruct (5) French river (5) Part of foot (6) Sweetheart (4-4) Marine echinoderm (8) 12 Killing (8) 13 Unvanquished (8) 14 Pouch (3) 15 Vestment (3)

19 Submarines (1-5) 21 Prank (5) 22 Animal organs (5) 23 Parcel out (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Milling, 5 Hurry (Millinery), 8 Elbow, 9 Febrile, 10 Sugar beet, 12 Add, 13 Glossy, 14 Allied, 17 Guy, 18 Pyromania, 20 Lookout, 21 Alter, 23 Sheaf, 24 Hoedown, DOWN: 1 Meets, 2 Lob, 3 Inwards, 4 Gifted, 5 Habit, 6 Ruination, 7 Yielded, 11 Glory hole, 13 Goggles, 15 Limeade, 16 Wretch, 18 Proof, 19 Arran, 22 Too.



TELEVISION REVIEW REES



3 **3** (3) POP.

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BBC1

12.10 News; Weather (T) (9961540).

2.30 Around

5.35 News; Weathor (T) (833611). **5.45** Regional News and Weather (535908).

8.45 City Central. Northern cop-shop drama. A distressed man arrives in reception claiming to have done something evil. DS Ray Pickering, believing him to be a hoaxer, assigns him to rookle DC Mary Sutcliffe to interview. Meanwhile, Debbie and Steves plans for a romantic meal are scuppered (S) (T) (250637).

9.05 Jonathan Creek. Alan Davies, Caroline Quentin and another of David Benwick's characterful mysteries. They investigate when a £'nn painting is cut from its frame and stolen by an "invisible" thief (R) (S) (T) (539786).

9.55 Birds of a Feather. Sharon is barred from her home One sympathises (R) (S) (T) (935250).

10.25 News; Weather (T) (160144).

11.50 The Frank Skinner Show (S) (T) (192811).

2.50 Joins BBC News 24 (92701125). To 6.40am. 2.15 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (5808187).

HISTORY PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

TIMEWATCH: THE CROSSING (0.15pm BBC2, right) Given a sort of tangential topicality by the Nato bombing of the refugee convoy in Kosovo, this film examines a tragedy from the Second World War in the Pacific, when American submarines topedoed two Japanese ships carrying 2,000 British and Australian PoWs. Left floating in shark-infested waters, only half of them survived the attack. Two of these, Australian Bay Wheeler and former British gumer Will Barnett, return to the Far Fast to recall their nightmurish experience. And there's some extraordinary home-movie foolage filmed from the US

5 Grandstand (S) (9860811). 12.20 Football Focus (1265502). 1.45 Athletics - Balmoral Road Reces (97968328). 1.40 Motor Sport (3035502). 2.30 Around the Grounds (5925724). 2.40 World Snooker Championship (5604291). 3.50 Football Half-Times (4734163). 4.00 Athletics - Balmoral Road Races (7275786). 4.40 Final Score (7489619).

5.50 Families at War. The Woolcott family from Biggin Hill and the Moore family from Nortolk submit themselves to this Vic and Bob-Inspired lunecy (S) (T) (112057).

6.30 Big Break. As if there wasn't enough snooker on the BBC today... Jim Davidson hosts another round of his game show. Guests are Jason Ferguson and Ronnie O'Sullivan, if that makes any difference (S) (T) (846).

Whatevor You Want. Gaby Roslin fixes it for a wannabe television presenter, a *Dr Who* fan who'd like to own his own dalek and throe women who want their own celebrity spread in OK! magazine. Guests are Another Level and Otis the Aardvark (S) (T) (417434).

7.50 The National Lottery - We've Got Your Number. Brian Conley and more big-money balls (S) (T) (887328).

10.40 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam, Alan Hansen and Trevor Brooking have their eyes on the relegation tussle twixt Everton and Charlton (S) (1) (7289960).

12.20 INTO Hustle (Robert Aldrich 1975 US). Grim, modern film noir in which a cynical cop investigates the murder of a prostitute. See Film of the Day, below (T)

Schoolmates as "Homes and Mira Slobodan Milosevic and Mira Slobodan Milosevic and Mira hand-in-hund. In later life, as his first lady (us in Lady Mac apparently given to wooing a during inportant state even illumed before the bombs state have known the couple. Mor nurrdered by the Nazis and

n later life, as President of Yugoslavia and I later life, as President of Yugoslavia and s in Lady Macbeth), "Sloba" and "Mira" are n to wooing each other in boby talk, even nt state events. Phil Rees's absorbing report, he bumbs started falling, talks to those that a couple. Most view Mira – whose mother was to Nuzis and whose father was chumny with

SLOBA AND MIRA (640pm BBC2, right) Known to schoolmates as "Romeo and Juliet 2", teenage lover

DOCUMEN'

TARY OF THE DAY

Rolphelant

Sugar Hill Gang and Bizzy Bone.

with some of the labels most renowned R'n B acts and celebrates the Motown legend features live performances from USA's hottest

This new series, exclusive to UK Arena,

talent. Tonight's guests include Faith Evans,

11.25 13 The Rainmaker (Joseph Anthony 1956 US). Stagey but appealing comedy starring Burl Lancaster as a dreamy comman who claims that he can make it rain in a drought-atricken Kansas town. Katharine Hepburn is the spinster who catches his oye (31363298).

1.25 IIII The Scalphunters (Sydney Pollack 1968 US). Pollack essays his later movie *Jeremiah Johnson* with this comedy western about a trapper who has been forced to take an ex-stave - played by Ossio Davis in return for his furb by some Floriky Mountain ladians, Shelley Winters and Telly Savallas are also involved (T) (9/76/1095).

3.05 Space 1999 (T) (345/4K). 3.55 TOTP 2 (5) (7471705)

8.15 RECOME Timewatch: The Crossing, Two survivors recall when their Japanese PoW transport ship was hit by American torpedoes in September 1944, See History Programme of the Day, below (S) (T) (258279).

9.05 World Snooker Championship. Continued coverage of the Embassy world championship from Sheffield (S) (31471989).

12.20 HILM Rhapsody in August (Akira Kurosawa 1991 Jap). Kurosawa 1991 Jap). Kurosawa facile lecture on the futility of war. Four children spend the summer in their grandmother's house near Nagasaki, listening to her tales of 1945 when the A-bomb attack killed her husband. They await the arrival of their Japanese-American uncle Richard Gere (Then Weatherview) (S) (370729). To 2am.

BBC2

6.05 Open University: No Place to Hide (7861705).
6.30 Whose Body? (54317). 7.00 Talking about Care (34637). 7.30 Rousseau in Africa: Democracy in the Making (13144). 8.00 Weekend 24 (5) (98057). 8.00 Open Saturday (5) (68468182). 10.40 See Hear on Saturday (5) (4345811).

4.40 World Snooker Championship. Further coverage from the Crucible, Sheffield (S) (78521540).

7.30 Nows and Sport; Weathor (T) (151415).

7.45 History Zono: One Foot in the Past. Michael Elphick on the history of the "Glorious Goodwood" race meeting and Dan Cruickshank on Cromwellian architecture (S) (T) (947182).

1,25 The Jerry Springer Show (R) (S) (T) (2308106). .30 17/11/11 Unlawful Entry (Jonathan Keplan 1992 US). Kurt Russell again, this time as Madeleine Stowe's husband. The couple have been threatened by a knife-wielding intruder. Enter friendly neighbourhood policeman Ray Llotta. Yes, well, quite (S) (T) (231540).

.35 Box Office America (44544854). To 4am. .05. Title Discult Eater (Vincent McEveety 1972 US), Odd scheduling for a Disney boy-and-dog movie, but there you go (T) (8547903).

6.30 A Little Piece of Hame (R) (S) (55/852).

6.40 INIMES Correspondent: Sloba and Mira. Reporter Phil Ress tooks at the bizarro relationship between President Slobodan Milosevic and his wife, Mira Markovic. See Documentary of the Day, below (S)

1.45 Stars in Their Eyes. A 72-year-old retired cabinet-maker from Northumberland treats us to his Bing Crosby, while a receptionist from Middlesex tries it on with her Madonna. A chap claiming to be Matthew Kelly is the compere (S) (T) (522366).

Here's the problem. A band of terrorists has hijacked a 747 airliner with 400 passengers on board, their intention being to use it to spray a nerve gas that will wipe out the east coast of America. Whatever your view, Special Forces hot-shots Kurt Russell and Steven Seagal have different ideas - and sneak on board via a Stealth bomber. Die Herd is the obvious template for this airborne tosh. An executive dacision with the remote control might be in order (S) (T) (774273).

1. 40

Tauf (Andrew Lau 1984 HK). Jacky Cheung is the hard-kicking undercover agent who gets sucked into the Triad lifestyle he is investigating in this lively chunk of martialarts smash-bang-wallop (362361).

OO OMTV (2502892)

William Man About the House (John Robins 1974 UK). The inevitable (and inevitably awful) big-screen version of a sitcom that has otherwise held up surprisingly well over the passing decades. The Ropers are planning to sell up – can flatsharing tenants Richard O'Sullyan, Paula Wilcox and Sally Thomsett stop them?

Early Edition (S) (560182), 4.45 ITV News; Sports Results; Weather (T) (2618144), 5.05 London Weekend Tonight (T) (9823368), 5.20 The New Addams Family (S) (T) (2899279).

The Curse of Mr Bean. They said it. Rowan Alkinson's mute walking disaster attempts to park the car and go swimming (R) (821144).

You've Been Framed! Lisa Riley presents some more hilarlous outtakes from "your home videos". Since most of them appear to be American, this seems unlikely (S) (T) (473705).

Bilind Date. More sofa-bound unreconcliable differences from Cilla Black and her Graham. Leonle and David report back from Stockholm, while Richard and Janine talk us through their trip to Cape Town (S) (T) (4279).

8.00 ITV News; Weather; Lottery Result (T) (570811).

10.30 Eddie izzard – Qiorious. Toasiers, shower units and the origins of time are among the subjects alighted upon by Eddie izzard when his stand-up show reached London's Hammersmith Apolio last year (R) (7292434).

3.25 4 Later: Dprogram (4895496), **4.35** 4 Later: The Clangers (83575380). **4.50** 4 Later: Nightlife Legends (33097564). To 5.tbarn.

SMTV Live. Fierce and 911 are Ant and Dec's guests (S) (15633347).

CD UK (S) (92144). **12.30** Warnabe (S) (T) (30250). **1.00** ITV News; Weather (T) (15469540). **1.05** London Weekend Today (T) (15468811). **1.10** On the Ball (T) (2841927). **1.45** NBA '99 (T) (302960). 12,00

5.05 Brookside Omnibus. All the week's Lindsey action in full as she goes Lethel Weepon 4 against the Finnigans (R) (S) (T) (8408328).

Channel 4 News; Weather, Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T)

7.00 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton filters viewers' complaints. Phone 0990 044444 for a say (T) (3142).

7.30 The Establishment. Photographer Nick Danziger continues his anapshot of the British establishment by hanging out with Peter Stothard, editor of The Times (989).

White House Tapes. The last of Charles Wheeler's programmes looks at J Edgar Hoover's attempts to discredit Martin Luther King using wire-taps and bugging. Phone conversations between President Johnson and Hoover reveal the lengths they were prepared to go to to stop a man Hoover believed was a communist stoogs. But then Hoover believed that everybody was a communist stooge (1569).

9.00 Frasier. A distraught Niles has to cope with the fact that Dephne is deling his divorce attorney (R) (S) (T)

9.30 Ardal O'Hanion Live. A one-off comedy special featuring the Father Ted star and recorded at Dublin's Galety Theatre (R) (T) (91415).

11.35 The Sundays (357366). 12.40 4 Leter: West Heath Yard (T) (2811854). 140 Mirrorbell (107565)).

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 24 April 1999

OO Sesame Street (R) (S) (89250), 7.00 T4: Bush Tales (R) (2457095), 7.05 The Trap Door (2456366), 7.10 T4: Dig, Dug and Daley (R) (S) (5080076), 7.25 The Magic Roundabout (R) (2436502), 7.30 T4: Home to Rent (S) (T) (31540), 8.00 T4: Transworld Sport (R) (16453), 9.00 Morning Line (S) (26279), 10.00 Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (37724), 11.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (17960).

00 Beastly Britain (R) (S) (6440618). 6.30 Was it Good for You? (R) (S) (4616540). 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (2320569). 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (218927). 7.35 Wimzle's House (R) (4532540). 8.00 Lassie (R) (S) (8312873). 8.30 Wishbone (R) (8311144). 9.00 The Enid Blyton Secret Series (R) (S) (8335724). 9.30 Roobarb (R) (S) (2464279). 9.40 Pitch, Hit and Hun (8280927). 10.00 Witchworld (4607892). 10.30 Loggerheads (R) (S) (8331091, 11.00 The Peps) Chart (1544873). 11.30 Bang Liberty (1545502). 12.00 Pacific Blue (2666637). 12.55 Beauty and the Beast (R) (5580786). 1.50 5 News (S) (T) (64309434).

TILLY Arabian Adventure (Kevin Connor 1979 UK). Remember Oliver Toblas? Here is the lad, as a prince battling svil callph Christopher Lae for the hand of Emma Samms in a ho-hum Arabian Nights adventure with requisite genies and flying carpets (540347).

1.50 Driven. Second-hand motoring magazine (16822163).

5.00 Daria. New US animation about a deadpan, sharp-wifted leenager. As if (S) (98833960).

4.30 Stingled Out. The return of the dating show (S) (6696144). 2.00 Sunset Beach Omnibus (R) (S) (T) (3647927).

2.20 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park and Leicester. Sandown hosts the Whitbread Gold Cup at 3.30pm, as well as the 2.50, 4.10 and 4.45pm races. Leicester provides two races, at 2.30 and 4.30pm (63367892).

5.25 The Tribe. New post-apocalyptic children's drama, described as "Lord of the Files for the millennium", about a mysterious virus that wipes out adults. The surviving children form themselves into tribes (88843347).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (3665521). **6.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys.** Classicists should probably avoid this hotch-poich of legend, history and myth for their own peace of mind. This week, Hercules descends to the neitherworld to rescue the daughter of the goddess Demeter (4941873).

6.55 Night Fever. Suggs hosts the karacke entertainment show, with team captains Tony Blackburn and Katle Puckrik: 911 provide the musical interlude (R) (S)

7.50 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (4623705).

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8.05 Coming Diassiers. The threat of voicences is the latest subject covered by this apocalyptic documentary series (4483144).

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9.00 Married Gregory Harrison goes on a business trip with his mistress, only to discover that she is a drugs smuggler. Her activities result in his shooting a Drug Enforcement Agency man in self-defence. Wracked with guilt, he returns home, only to find himself being blackmailed over the killing. You see, viewers, you should never stray from the maritel bed (T) (49780095).

10.50 Love Street. A couple wager that they can both give up sax for a month (417415).

11.30 IELM Nittl – the Enforcer (Michael Switzer 1988 US). The rise and fall of Al Capone's enforcer. Anthony LaPaglia gets to utter the gangster cilchés (3136328).

1.20 **ITLIM Frostlire** (David Greene 1994 Can). An Inuit investigates the mysterious cover-up of a deadly illness in the northern Arctic (4643477).

3.00 IIIIM Tomorrow We Live (George King 1943 UK). French Resistance heroics (4105038). To 4.30am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

FILM OF THE DAY

HUSTLE (12.20am BBC1 right) Ulzana's Raid (10.45pm BBC2) is probably the more accomplished of the two Robert Aldrich movies on today, but Hustle is less often screened. For the director of Kiss Me Deadly, it was a return to the film noir territory that first made Aldrich's name in the 1950s, as Burt Reynolds's cynical cop teams up with a beautiful call girl (shades of Hustle's near contemporary, Klute, here) to solve the murder of a small-time prostitute. Catherine Deneuve lends a cold European glamour to the surrounding murkiness as Reynolds progresses through the Los Angeles





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